**CALL TO ACTION**

Call Florida Representative Trabulsy’s office at 850-717-5084 and ask that HB263, The HeartCharged Act, be placed on the agenda for the next Education Quality Subcommittee meeting. She is the Chair. Please, thank you, and let us know if you do.

You can leave a message. You can add your own reasons why or not.

More info on bill at: <https://www.getheartcharged.org/heartchargedact>

Call Florida Senator Simon’s office at 850-487-5003 and ask that SB1544, be placed on the agenda for the next PreK-12 Education Committee meeting. He is the Chair. Please, thank you, and let us know if you do.

You can leave a message. You can add your own reasons why or not.

More info on bill at: <https://www.getheartcharged.org/heartchargedact>

Our bill is now filed in the Florida Senate as well as the Florida House.

Would you please help us get this historic bill passed by doing this today?

Call Representative Trabulsy’s office at 850-717-5084.

Say something like:

Hi, I’m asking Representative Trabulsy to please put HB263, The HeartCharged Act, on the agenda for the next Education Quality Subcommittee meeting.

And you can tell her aide your reasons why or you don’t have to. It will save many lives. Representative Trabulsy is the Committee Chair.

Information on bill can be found at: <https://www.getheartcharged.org/heartchargedact>

The HeartCharged Act calls for cardiac emergency response plans & drills at schools because seconds make the difference between life & death & brain damage.

The HeartCharged Act calls for AEDs (defibrillators) for optimal three-minute response time and the entire school community knowing where they are and when and how to use them. Teachers will be offered CPR training.

The HeartCharged Act informs students, parents, & staff of warning signs & requires staff to have students discontinue physical activity if symptoms occur.

The HeartCharged Act calls for staff to know the limitations and considerations a student with a known cardiac condition may need.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for student athletes, but also the leading cause of death on school campuses. The HeartCharged Act makes sure all students throughout their day at school are protected.

Our bill is now filed in the Florida Senate, as SB1544, as well as the Florida House!

It hasn’t been assigned to Senate committees yet, but it has been in the House. We heard the Chair of the first committee was waiting for a Senate bill to be filed. Can you - and your friends - help us with contacting the Chair of the first committee to ask that it be on the agenda?

The bill is HB263, The HeartCharged Act.

The Chair is Representative Trabulsy, district office 772-595-1391, email [Dana.trabulsy@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:Dana.trabulsy@myfloridahouse.gov)

Please & thank you.

Thank you so much for your willingness to support The HeartCharged Act so we can make our schools and community safe against sudden cardiac arrest and safe for students with heart conditions.

The bill has been filed in the Florida House of Representatives. It is House Bill 263.

INFORMATION ON CONTACTING LEGISLATORS AND THE BILL BELOW.

**CURRENT ADVOCACY PRIORITIES**

**Please reach out to these Representatives. Call and send follow-up email.**

**Ask them to co-sponsor the bill.**

TRABULSY, Dana Committee Chair 850-717-5084

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Aide: None

**Contact your Representative.** Go to <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/> to find your Representative and their contact information. If they are not already sponsoring or co-sponsoring the bill, reach out and ask them to co-sponsor. If they are, thank them and share your personal reasons.

You can also reach out to other community leaders and ask for their support. Towns or groups can offer a resolution or letter or support. If you secure any, please share them with us to give to the bill sponsors.

**SAMPLE PHONE SCRIPT**

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I’m calling to ask for Representative \_\_\_\_’s support on The HeartCharged Act, House as a co-sponsor. It ensures readiness for cardiac and medical emergencies on school grounds.

(*Share briefly personal reasons why you support the bill.*)

Should I send a follow-up email?

(*Send follow-up email to Representative and cc the Legislative Aide.*)

(*If you are asked what the bill is about, you can respond - readiness for cardiac and medical emergencies on school grounds.*)

(*If you are asked for the bill number, it is House Bill 263. We are waiting on a Senate bill number.*)

(*If you do not hear back and you do not see that the person has co-sponsored the bill, follow up after a few days.*)

**SAMPLE TEMPLATE FOR AN EMAIL TO A REPRESENTATIVE OR SENATOR**

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_(*last name)\_\_*,

(*If they are a Committee Chair, write: Dear Honorable Chair \_\_(last name)\_\_)*

*(If they are a Ranking Member of a committee, write: Dear Ranking Member \_\_(last name)\_\_)*

Please support The HeartCharged Act and become a co-sponsor.

(*Tell them your personal reasons. Keeping it to a paragraph is effective.)*

(*Tell them what in the bill is important to you.*)

Thank you,

\_\_(*your name*)\_\_

**Sharing Your Personal Reasons**

Share your personal connection to this issue. That will have the most impact. It can be as simple as you are a student and want safe schools. But if you have more, share more.

We talk about having a heart condition that made us prone to sudden cardiac arrest and there only being one staff member trained and authorized to use the AED and he was often out of the building.

We talk about having a condition and being told we would flunk PE if we did not participate fully while our doctor said we could drop dead if we did.

We talk about the many young people we know who have died from sudden cardiac arrest often from an undiagnosed heart condition. We talk about those who lived as well. We talk about these deaths being something we really could prevent.

**Why Support for The HeartCharged Act is Crucial**

The HeartCharged Act will save lives by ensuring our schools’ readiness for a cardiac emergency.

The HeartCharged Act addresses the #1 killer on school campuses, sudden cardiac arrest.

4 Florida youth suffer sudden cardiac arrest daily. Only 9% survive.

The majority of those deaths are preventable by quick responses & awareness.

The HeartCharged Act calls for cardiac emergency response plans & drills because seconds make the difference between life & death & brain damage.

The HeartCharged Act calls for AEDs (defibrillators) for optimal three-minute response time and the entire school community knowing where they are and when and how to use them. Teachers will be offered CPR training.

1 in every 300 youth (approximately 15,000 in Florida) has an undiagnosed heart condition.

The HeartCharged Act informs students, parents, & staff of warning signs & requires staff to have students discontinue physical activity if symptoms occur.

The HeartCharged Act calls for staff to know the limitations and considerations a student with a known cardiac condition may need.

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for student athletes, but also the leading cause of death on school campuses. The HeartCharged Act makes sure all students throughout their day at school are protected.

The HeartCharged Act will help prevent deaths and not just in school.

Sudden cardiac death is at epidemic proportions killing an estimated 436,000 Americans each year. Over 70% of cardiac attacks happen at home.

The HeartCharged Act will empower the school community to be lifesavers at school, at home, and in their community.

**Do I need to be a registered voter in Florida to reach out to advocate for this bill?** What if I’m not old enough? What if I don’t live in the state? What if I never registered?

Anyone can reach out on behalf of The HeartCharged Act. It is especially important that students advocate for measures at their schools. That means a great deal. In fact, if you are a student, identify yourself as such when reaching out.

Even if you don’t live in Florida, you can help the Florida legislators understand why such measures are lifesaving. Reach out and let them know. After The HeartCharged Act passes, officials in your state will hopefully adopt these measures.

You do not need to be a registered voter. Just share your passion and reasons.

**What are the basics of The HeartCharged Act?**

The HeartCharged Act calls for schools to have cardiac emergency plans and carry out medical emergency drills. It ensures there are available AEDs on campus. Beyond that, it includes an informational component so the entirety of the school community can be empowered to act in a cardiac emergency. It makes sure families and staff members know the warning signs of a cardiac condition in youth and act on them. It ensures schools understand the needs of students with heart conditions better. The measures in the bill, ones of preparation and information, would absolutely save lives and empower a generation to act in a cardiac emergency.

**Does sudden cardiac arrest really affect young people?**

Over 23,000 youth (18 and under) are stricken annually in the United States alone by sudden cardiac arrest. That’s 63 per day or the equivalent of more than two classrooms full of students. Statistically, that means 1,380 youth suffer cardiac arrest in Florida each year, or 4 per day. The majority of those deaths are preventable. The HeartCharged Act will enact measures turning the current dismal survival rate of 9% towards 90%.

**Can’t we protect our students by quickly calling 911?**

With sudden cardiac arrest, seconds count, but, nationally, it takes emergency medical services about eight minutes to respond. Bystander interventions make the difference between life and death. The HeartCharged Act calls for each school to have a cardiac emergency response plan and to hold two drills yearly so effective actions can be taken quickly.

**What happens in sudden cardiac arrest and why is an AED needed?**

In sudden cardiac arrest, the heart stops pumping. Within three minutes, brain damage will start to occur. A jolt from a defibrillator, or AED, is needed to restart the heart. The HeartCharged Act calls for enough AEDs on all K-12 school campuses for a three-minute retrieval time. The location of the AEDs is to be accessible and marked and known by those on campus. They will also know how to use the AED. Deaths frequently occur due to AEDs not working or their whereabouts being unknown.

**Why does The HeartCharged Act emphasize knowing the warning signs of a cardiac condition in youth?**

1 in every 300 youth (meaning approximately 15,000 Florida youth) has an undiagnosed heart condition. The standard approach to well-child checkups and physicals can miss up to 90% of heart abnormalities.

Up to 72% of sudden cardiac arrest is preceded by symptoms, which often go unrecognized or unreported. In cases when an SCA victim had reported symptoms, up to 60% of practitioners did not consider a cardiac diagnosis.

Up to 49% of victims had a significant family history that should have triggered diagnostic testing. As few as 15% of practices annually update patient history, which means changes in a family’s heart health could be missed.

The HeartCharged Act informs students, parents, and staff of the warning signs of a cardiac condition. This can lead to screening and a diagnosis and appropriate treatment to avoid or survive sudden cardiac arrest. Families can advocate for care.

The HeartCharged Act requires staff to have students discontinue physical activity if symptoms occur and for the incident to be reported to parents. There are many cases where students continued to engage in physical activity after showing symptoms and died from sudden cardiac arrest. Staff will also be offered CPR/AED training.

**How will The HeartCharged Act help students that are already diagnosed with a heart condition?**

Many students come to school with a known heart condition. The HeartCharged Act calls for staff to know the limitations and considerations a student with a cardiac condition may need. Students should not be penalized for not participating in activities such as sports when doing so could be detrimental to their health.

**Are athletes at greatest risk?**

Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for student athletes. However, it does not just strike student athletes or strike during times of exertion. The HeartCharged Act puts safety measures in place for all students and staff at all times on campus.

**How will The HeartCharged Act help protect our communities?**

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death for youth, and yet in most cases, it can be prevented. The HeartCharged Act will help prevent deaths and not just in school.

Outside of school, an estimated 436,000 Americans across all age groups die each year from sudden cardiac arrest. That is epidemic proportions. Over 70% of those attacks happen at home. The HeartCharged Act will empower the school community to be lifesavers at school, at home, and in their community.

**What is Hannah’s story that led her to be a founder of HeartCharged?**

“I am a sudden cardiac arrest survivor. I found out in high school I had an asymptomatic but deadly heart condition. Then I found out 1 in every 300 youth has an undiagnosed heart condition. I was shocked to discover that sudden cardiac arrest kills 63 youth a day (that’s more than two classrooms full) in the US alone and that it is the #1 killer on school campuses. I certainly am not alone, but my outcome is rare. Only about 10% of sudden cardiac arrest victims survive. Seriously, with initiatives like those in the HeartCharged Act, the survival rate could be closer to 90%.” - Hannah Keime