



# The HEARTS Act

was passed in response to the increasing awareness of sudden cardiac arrest incidents among young individuals, particularly in school settings. High-profile care, such as the collapse of NFL player Damar Hamlin, highlighted the critical need for immediate access to AEDs and trained personnel.

Sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death among young people, with approximately 2,000 individuals under the age of 25 dying from SCA each year.



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Every second counts and having access to training and easily-used technology, such as AEDs, can mean the difference between life and death.

CHRISTOPHER M. CRAMER, M.D.

## The HEARTS Act:



Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), working with the CDC, to **create and share educational materials** for school staff, health workers, coaches, and families.



Requires HHS to **create tools to identify the risk of heart disease** in children and teens.

- The condition is generally misunderstood/under-researched in younger individuals (18 and younger)
- Black athletes are five times more likely to experience SCA compared to their white counterparts.
- SCA affects between 7,000 to 23,000 youth annually.
- SCA is the leading cause of death on school campuses and the primary cause of death for student athletes. It can occur regardless of age, physical health, or conditioning.
- The relative risk of SCA in student athletes vs. nonathletes was 3.6%.
- 89% of student athletes with SCA were males. Male student athletes are generally at greater risk of SCA than female student athletes.



Instructs the CDC and NIH to **report on their research and monitoring efforts** related to cardiomyopathy



Creates a grant program to **fund the placement of AEDs** in public schools and childcare centers.

- Overall survival rate of out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is approximately 10%. This rate can increase to 40% or higher with immediate bystander CPR.





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[The HEARTS Act] will ensure that our schools, sports programs, and public spaces are **equipped with the tools and knowledge necessary to save lives.**

— MARK S. SCHOEBERL —

## The Ask

**To continue sustainable funding and partnerships to fully carry out the HEARTS Act and support emergency response efforts.**

This includes funding through federal grants, CDC and NIH research, state and local matching funds, partnerships with medical device companies, sports leagues, nonprofits, and health organizations. Existing FEMA or Homeland Security funds could also be used to support emergency preparedness.

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My journey has shown us that no one expects cardiac arrest to happen—and **we all need to be prepared.** Working together, we have the chance now to protect kids and impact the next generation.

— DAMAR HAMLIN —



PARTNERSHIP TO  
**advance**  
**cardiovascular**  
**health**



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2. SCA Statistics. (n.d.). *Saving Hearts Foundation*. <https://savingheartsfoundation.com/sca-statistics/>
3. Malik, A., Hanson, J., Han, J., Dolezal, B., Bradfield, J. S., Boyle, N. G., & Hsu, J. J. (2023). Sudden cardiac arrest in athletes and strategies to optimize preparedness. *Clinical cardiology*, 46(9), 1059–1071. <https://doi.org/10.1002/clc.24095>
4. Toresdahl, B.G., Rao, A.L., Harmon, K.G., & Drezner, J.A. (2014). Incidence of sudden cardiac arrest in high school student athletes on campus. *Heart Rhythm*, 11(7), 1190–1194. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hrthm.2014.04.017>
5. Toresdahl, B.G., Rao, A.L., Harmon, K.G., & Drezner, J.A. (2014). Incidence of sudden cardiac arrest in high school student athletes on campus. *Heart Rhythm*, 11(7), 1190–1194. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hrthm.2014.04.017>
6. CPR Facts & Stats. (n.d.). *American Heart Association: CPR & First Aid Emergency Cardiovascular Care*. <https://cpr.heart.org/en/resources/cpr-facts-and-stats/>
7. U.S. Senate. (2024). Schumer –with Buffalo Bills’ Damar Hamlin, students & Bills mafia- announces he will be leaving Hamlin’s lifesaving HEARTS Act to help put AEDs in schools across America to the Senate floor this week. [https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer\\_with-buffalo-bills-damar-hamlin-students-and-bills-mafia-announces-he-will-bring-hamlin-lifesaving-hearts-act-to-help-put-aeds-in-schools-across-america-to-the-senate-floor-this-week?](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer_with-buffalo-bills-damar-hamlin-students-and-bills-mafia-announces-he-will-bring-hamlin-lifesaving-hearts-act-to-help-put-aeds-in-schools-across-america-to-the-senate-floor-this-week?)