

Honorable House Education Committee Members:

Throughout my child-rearing years, I was what most people would call an “over-protective” mom who lived by the motto “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” As a mom and a cardiac registered nurse, I was totally devoted to the good health and well-being of my two daughters. But the one thing I could not prevent, never saw coming and will *never* get a second chance to fix was my worst nightmare come true. On December 31, 2002, my daughter, Janna, died in her sleep at the age of 15 from sudden cardiac arrest.

On September 12, 2001, Janna was sitting quietly in class at school when suddenly she fainted. She regained consciousness shortly thereafter and was taken to the emergency room. I was assured by two physicians, the emergency room physician and the pediatrician, that she was fine – they reassured me that all I needed to do was to make sure she ate a good breakfast, drank more fluids and used more salt. The pediatrician reassured me that “this was something they were seeing more and more in athletic girls and they just needed to use more salt in their diet.” Fifteen months later Janna was dead.

I have since discovered that Janna had a genetic electrical heart condition called Long QT Syndrome, a heart condition that was detectable with an electrocardiogram, a simple, painless \$100 test. Had she had a full cardiac arrest at school and not just fainted, an

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AED would have been necessary to save her life. Janna could have lived a long, full life with proper medical intervention despite her heart condition. How can we not protect our precious children with such simple, affordable and life-saving technology? What good are our life-saving technologies if we don't use them and we just let children die? I realize that I cannot bring Janna back but I will not let her death be in vain. I want to ensure that Janna's having lived on this earth will help save other young lives from her tragic, *but preventable*, fate.

Sudden cardiac arrest is killing thousands of vibrant, seemingly healthy young people all across the United States. As a member of Parent Heart Watch, the national voice *solely* dedicated to protecting youth from sudden cardiac arrest and preventable sudden cardiac death, an organization for which Rachel Moyer was a cofounder, I implore you to go to the website, www.ParentHeartWatch.org. Please take a moment to look at the many beautiful faces of youth across this country, several of whom are from Pennsylvania, that suffered sudden cardiac arrest; so many children have died, but many have lived because the proper interventions were taken. We have here a tremendous opportunity to utilize "an ounce of prevention." Once a child dies, there is no "pound of cure." Please support HB 1803 in our efforts to protect and save the lives of Pennsylvania citizens on school grounds from sudden cardiac arrest, the number one killer of the American people, young and old alike. Thank you for your time.