

PHILIPS

January 26, 2023

Re: A letter of support for HB 2337

Chair Walker and other House Health, Welfare and Institutions Sub-Committee #3 Delegates,

On behalf of Philips, I urge the House Health, Welfare and Institutions Subcommittee #3 to pass HB2337, legislation that would require sports facilities to have automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on site.

As you may know, Philips is a health technology company focused on improving people's lives. The company produces a variety of health care technologies, including AEDs, patient monitors, medical imaging machines, ventilators, among many other solutions. Philips employs over 200 in Virginia with a facility in Norfolk.

Philips applauds any legislative effort to expand access and awareness of AEDs because they increase the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA), which is a life-threatening emergency that occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating. This emergency could strike people of all ages at any moment, even those who appear healthy. An AED analyzes the heart and delivers a shock to restart the heart's normal rhythm if it detects a problem. An AED is critical to reviving a sudden cardiac arrest victim.

This legislation is important because SCA may happen when individuals exercise. For example, one study that looked at SCA in Portland, Oregon from 2002-2015, found that sports-related SCA accounted for 39% of SCAs among those under 18 years of age, 13% for those 19-25 years of age, and 7% for those 25-34 in a prospective registry of 3,775 SCAs in Portland, OR.¹

According to the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation, only 1 in 10 Americans survive SCA. Approximately 356,000 people of all ages experience SCA out of the hospital each year.² For every minute that passes without CPR and defibrillation, a SCA victim's survival chances decrease by 7-10 percent.³ When bystanders intervene immediately by giving CPR and using an AED, survival rates triple to 31.4 percent.⁴

This bill would increase the probability that an AED shock can be delivered within minutes of a SCA happening in a sports facility. For these reasons, Philips urges this Committee to advance this bill forward. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Evan Hoffman
Director, State and Local Government Relations
Philips

¹ [See Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation latest statistics landing page](#)

² [See Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation about-us section](#)

³ AHA Releases 2015 Heart and Stroke Statistics, Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation, September 16, 2016

⁴ Response to Cardiac Arrest and Selected Life-Threatening Medical Emergencies, Mary Fran Hazinski; et al, American Heart Association, September 16, 2016