



March 24, 2025

Rep. Mike Freiberg, Co-Chair
Rep. Duane Quam, Co-Chair
Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chairs Freiberg and Quam and Members of the Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee:

On behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA), I would like to express the AHA's support for H.F. 1290, legislation that authorizes roadside signage for automatic external defibrillators for qualifying locations.

Over the years, the AHA has given priority to cardiopulmonary resuscitation training for the US population and the placement and use of AEDs in public places to ensure optimal response when a person experiences sudden cardiac arrest. Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is a global public health issue with more than 3.8 million victims annually and only 8% to 12% surviving to hospital discharge. Victims require immediate basic life support to optimize the probability of survival.

Early defibrillation of shockable rhythms is associated with improved survival, but one of the greatest challenges in OHCA management has been providing victims with access to immediate defibrillation. Even in optimized emergency medical systems, the median response time for OHCA can be more than 6 minutes. To reduce this delay, public access defibrillation programs involving the strategic deployment of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) in the community have been developed over the past three decades. Individuals with little to no training can operate AEDs to support chest compressions and treat shockable cardiac arrest rhythms.

The American Heart Association supports placement of AEDs in locations with significant public footprint including in coordination with cardiac emergency response planning. Continued evolution of public access defibrillation implementation to support high-quality chest compressions and improve early defibrillation will enhance cardiac safety in our communities and increase survival for victims of OHCA. House File 1290 is a valuable tool in providing additional information to the public for AED accessibility.

I respectfully ask for the committee's support of House File 1290.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul L. Weirtz".

Paul L. Weirtz
State Government Relations Director
American Heart Association