



Tuesday, July 23, 2024

STATEMENT: DAMAR HAMLIN, Founder, Chasing M's Foundation

REGARDING: THE BILL SIGNING OF HB 47 AT WORTHINGTON KILBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL; COLUMBUS, OHIO

While I could not join you in person, I write to congratulate and commend everyone who is gathered this afternoon at Worthington Kilbourne High School. Today's bill signing is a testament to leadership and teamwork, and I thank and applaud Governor DeWine, the leaders of the Ohio legislature, the bill sponsors, and the many **Smart Heart Sports Coalition** team members who came together to move this life-saving legislation forward.

As you know, I experienced my own cardiac arrest on January 2nd 2023, similar to the one that took place here last summer. On the night of my injury, the athletic training and medical staff on the sidelines followed an emergency action plan, performed CPR, and immediately used an AED. As my experience illustrated, the readiness and response of those at or near the scene of a cardiac emergency can save someone's life. It saved mine.

Because of what I experienced, I'm working to make sure kids across the country have the same access to life-saving care that I did – if and when they might need it.

The bill that the Governor signs today will help to do just that. It will help protect kids by making AEDs readily accessible on school grounds, as well as municipal and recreation locations, where organized sporting events occur. It also requires EAPs to be adopted at these sites and for staff to be trained in using AEDs, which compliments Ohio's existing requirements that coaches be certified in CPR. These are commonsense, practical measures that provide the tools, and know-how to transform bystanders into lifesavers. I call that ability to save someone in need a "super power."

I'll always consider Ohio my second home, and where I got a second chance at life. I'm delighted that this new law makes the places around the state where young people learn, play, and compete **safer, more resilient, and better prepared** to respond to a cardiac emergency. This is a big victory for young people throughout Ohio. I'm delighted to join you in this team win.