

TALKING POINTS

ASK: THE SMART HEART ACT

- Each year 23,000 children have a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital.
- A Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) is coordinated with EMS and ensures schools have a CPR-trained response team, appropriately placed AEDs, practice drills, and more.
- The Smart Heart Act will ensure schools have a CERP in place to save a life in a cardiac emergency on school grounds or during school athletic events.
- With over 1.3 million students in North Carolina schools, we can't wait.

Ask your lawmaker: Will you cosponsor the Smart Heart Act to protect North Carolina students and student athletes against preventable death from sudden cardiac arrest?

After you complete your meeting, remember to let us know how it went by snapping this QR code or filling out the form in your folder:



REMEMBER — You do not need to be an expert. Share these key facts and your personal story.

If a lawmaker asks a question you cannot answer, make a note of it and let them know you will follow-up with them.

Questions? Contact Scott Herrick (336-327-0438) or Aline Stone (504-606-0834)



American Heart Association.

You're the Cure

LEGISLATIVE MEETING TIP SHEET

BEFORE THE MEETING:

- Gather in your group and assign roles. Your meetings will likely be short, so you want to know who will cover which topic—Who will share their story? Who will make the ask? Who will submit the meeting report?

DURING THE MEETING:

- Introduce yourself to the lawmaker and indicate where you live (on what street in his/her district?)
- Share your story to set up the ask
- Let your lawmaker know why you are visiting (make the “asks”)
 - **Deliver the CERP: Smart Heart Act ask**
 - Make it personal—share your own expertise and why these issues matter to you.
 - **Ask your member for their support on these issues.**
- Thank them for their time, exchange information, and give them the leave behind.
- Ask for a photo opportunity and post to social media using the #HeartAtTheCapitol hashtag.

AFTER THE MEETING:

- Compare group notes and assign someone to your meeting report.
- Let AHA staff know if your lawmaker needs more information (provide details if you can).
- Stay in touch with your lawmaker:
 - Follow up with a thank you note.
 - Make an appointment in your calendar to call the legislator again in a few weeks and plan to check in periodically.
 - If a new piece of information or research is released, send it along to the legislator.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

- Whether you speak to a legislator or a staff member, it will make an impact. Remember to always be friendly and thank them for taking the time to speak with you.
- You can persuade your legislator by presenting facts and resources provided by the AHA.
- Sharing your story can be the most convincing part of the conversation—it makes the issue real to people who may otherwise not have a vested interest.

What to do if your lawmaker is unavailable:

- Leave a note for your lawmaker!
 - Using the notecard in your folder, leave a note with a message like this: Dear **[Representative or Senator Name]**, I’m a constituent living in **[Your Town]**. I’m sorry I missed you today, but I’d like to ask for your support for the Smart Heart Act, which will help schools save lives. You can reach me at **[###-###-####]** if you have any questions. Thank you, **[Your Name]**
- Leave the leave-behind card and your note card with your contact information.