



American Heart Association

Heart screening for student athletes

House Bill 970 | Rep. Rick Townsend



THE CHALLENGE



Families who have lost young athletes to cardiac conditions have faced the unimaginable. Many have shown extraordinary courage by turning their grief into a search for solutions that protect other children to help ensure no one else endures the pain they've lived through.

The heart is a complex organ, and there's no single test that can detect all indicators of heart conditions.

That's why the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology support an evidence-based, layered approach* — one that surrounds young people with protection by checking for problems early and being prepared for emergencies.

*layered approach includes the screening, any follow-up testing deemed necessary by a health care professional and cardiac emergency response plans

THE SCREENING | HB970

This starts at a student's regular sports physical. Their healthcare professional performs a heart screening, which includes reviewing personal and family history, as well as a physical exam. This screening is the best way to identify serious conditions that may need additional testing.

THE FOLLOW-UP

This approach empowers families and medical professionals to decide together what follow-up testing is appropriate.

THE PLAN

And because cardiac emergencies can still happen, every school needs a cardiac emergency response plan which includes training teachers, coaches and staff in CPR and AED use.

THE SOLUTION

HB970 | Heart Screening for Student Athletes
Bill Sponsor: Representative Rick Townsend

Support heart screening for student athletes during their regular sports physicals using an **evidence-based, layered approach** that includes a review of personal and family history, along with a physical exam. This is the best way to identify serious heart conditions that may require further testing.

Support heart screening for student athletes



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Advocate Voices

The American Heart Association is committed to protecting students from cardiac emergencies. The Heart Association and American College of Cardiology support an **evidence-based, layered approach to identify heart issues** so they can be diagnosed, monitored and treated as early as possible. Student athletes also face the highest immediate risk. Intense physical activity puts extra stress on the heart, which is why undetected heart conditions are likely to become dangerous during sports.



Quincy & Laura Bracci

The Bracci Family

Quincy | "Going through the heart screening process with my daughter, Quincy, taught me how important it is to protect young athletes from serious heart conditions. When my brother was diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, I realized that my kids could also be at risk," said Laura Bracci, Quincy's mother. **"Our family's medical history flagged the need for additional screening** with an echocardiogram and electrocardiogram. Completing the screening and additional evaluation gave me peace of mind that my daughter could safely play the sport she loves."

Endorsed by



American Heart Association.



AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY®

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