



American Heart Association®

**You're the Cure**



**Tennessee**  
CHAPTER

You don't need to be an expert to make an impact when talking to a legislator or their staff. Just share these key facts and your personal story to ask for their support on these policy efforts! Sharing your story can be the most convincing part—it makes the issue real for people who might not have a vested interest otherwise. If they ask a question you don't know the answer to, note it on your meeting report form and let them know the AHA will follow up. Remember to be friendly and thank them for their time.

## **TALKING POINTS**

### **TOBACCO RETAIL LICENSURE (HB 1008/SB 926)**

#### **Key Talking Points:**

- Tobacco companies focus their spending on retailers near schools and other places where teens shop.
- Tobacco retailers take advantage of the low enforcement to illegally sell to underage kids.
- Requiring tobacco retailers to be licensed will help protect Tennessee kids from the dangers of tobacco and vape products.

**Ask Your Lawmaker: Will you support Tobacco Retail Licensure?**

### **HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS (HB 1153/SB 740)**

#### **Key Talking Points:**

- No student should have to think about their stomach instead of their classes.
- This bill eliminates reduced meals and instead provides no-cost meals to those students.
- Providing more no-cost meals will help ensure our students are ready for success.

**Ask Your Lawmaker: Will you support Healthy School Meals?**

**Questions? Sarah Adair, 615-419-8955 or Aline Stone, 504-606-0834**

# CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS FUNDING

## Key Talking Points:

- Last year, Lawmakers ensured schools have a plan to save lives in a cardiac emergency, but now we need the resources to build them.
- In schools with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), kids who experience cardiac arrest are seven times more likely to survive.
- When minutes matter, having a plan in place, a team trained and properly equipped can mean the difference between life and death.

**Ask Your Lawmaker:** Will you support a budget amendment for Cardiac Emergency Response Plans?

## LEGISLATIVE MEETING TIPS

### BEFORE THE MEETING

Gather your group and assign roles. Since your meetings will likely be short, it's important to know who will cover each 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 mention where you live (which street in their district?).
- Share your story to set up the ask.
- Make the asks—let your lawmaker know why you're visiting.
  - Deliver the asks.
  - Make it personal—share your expertise and why these issues matter to you.
  - Ask your lawmaker to support these asks.
- Thank them for their time, exchange information, and give them the leave-behind materials.
- Ask for a photo opportunity and post it on social media using #HeartAtTheCapitol.

### AFTER THE MEETING

- Compare group notes and assign someone to complete your meeting report.
- Let AHA/ACC staff know if your lawmaker needs more information (provide details if possible).
- Stay in touch with your lawmaker.
  - Follow up with a thank you note.
  - Schedule a reminder to call the legislator again in a few weeks and plan to check in periodically.
  - If new information or research on the issue is released, send it along to the legislator.

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