American Heart Association.

MISSISSIPPI

2026-2027

PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

To be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives.

STATE POLICY AGENDA

Support Release of IRA Funds Timely (RIFT) proposals at the state level

Protect and Expand Medicaid

Support policies that increase access to healthcare coverage and reduce gaps in coverage:

- Expand Medicaid coverage for household incomes up to 138% FPL.
- Self-Measured Blood Pressure Coverage
  - Support expansion of state Medicaid coverage of self-measured blood pressure (SMBP) monitoring devices for the diagnosis and management of patients with hypertension.
  - Coverage of validated blood pressure monitoring devices.
  - Coverage of clinical support services.

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan for Athletics

Enact policies that require public schools to establish, utilize and maintain cardiac emergency response plans (CERP) at school athletic events and facilities that integrate evidence-based core elements in accordance with the AHA or nationally recognized recommendations or core elements.

Evidence-Based Heart Assessments

Establish a policy that sets statewide guidelines for preparticipation cardiac screenings for student athletes that follow guidelines set by the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology.

Paid Family Medical Leave

Support policies that ensure employees have access to paid family and medical leave programs that provide sufficient paid time off to manage significant personal or family life events and needs, such as a serious personal health condition, care for a family member with a serious health condition, or bond with a new child after birth, adoption, or placement in foster care.

- Increasing the duration of leave from 6 to 12 weeks.
- Including 2 weeks of leave for secondary caregivers.
- Include K-12 and college teachers in the government employee group.

CONTACT

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STATE POLICY AGENDA

Healthy Eating

School Food Access and Quality

- Encouraging Participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): Increase participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) from schools that are eligible by requiring those schools to publicly disclose their participation status and reason for not participating. If they are unable to participate due to financial hardship, the financial hardship should be demonstrated in the disclosure.

STATE APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA

Cardiac Emergency Response Plan Funding

Secure public funding for schools to implement cardiac emergency response plans (CERPs) and Athletic Emergency Action Plans (aEAPs) with a priority in targeting high-needs schools that integrate evidence-based, core elements in accordance with the AHA or nationally recognized recommendations or core elements.

LOCAL POLICY AGENDA

Smoke-Free Air

Enact smoke-free workplace laws that, at a minimum, cover workplaces, restaurants, and bars, and includes aerosolized or heated alternative nicotine delivery systems (ex. e-cigarettes, e-cigars, heat-not-burn products, etc.).
Olive Branch, MS

Complete Streets

Support state, local and tribal Complete Streets policies that prioritize the needs and safety for all road users, including people who walk, bike, roll and use transit.
Jackson, MS

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