



February 12, 2024

Chair Delperdang
House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
HB 2690, neutral oral

I am writing on behalf of the American Heart Association (AHA) regarding HB 2690 with some points for consideration relative to Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) and improving the cardiac chain of survival. AHA exists to be a relentless force for a world of longer healthier lives and appreciates the opportunity to speak about this proposal for restructuring of Kansas 911 oversight.

AHA believes that supporting local democracy and decision-making in Kansas is important to health. Here in Kansas, we have taken many positive steps to improve the health of people across the state. We want to make sure cities, towns, and counties continue to have the option to build on this progress and pass laws to help their communities and local businesses thrive. **However, we also believe setting a floor of minimum basic standards for health, safety and survival is strongly within the purview of the state legislature.**

Every year, more than 350,000 Americans fall victim to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). The national average survival rate for witnessed OHCA is only 38%, which contributes to the fact that only 1 in 10 survive. Early access to 9-1-1 and CPR are the first two links in the Chain of Survival. The first two links in the chain, early access to EMS and lay rescuer CPR, provide the foundation for subsequent treatment and are critical for successful resuscitation. Early lay rescuer CPR approximately doubles the chances of survival.

AHA recommends that 911 telecommunicators that provide dispatch for emergency medical conditions be trained in telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation (T-CPR). The instruction could come at low cost and should incorporate recognition protocols for OHCA, compression-only CPR instructions for callers, and continuous education. **People in rural areas should be entitled to the same access to a cardiac chain of survival as their urban counterparts and are deserving of the same chance at life.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kari A. Rinker'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.