

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Dawn Roberson](#)
Subject: FW: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)
Date: Thursday, June 26, 2014 8:52:24 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: sundrupal@capitol.local [<mailto:sundrupal@capitol.local>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2014 7:08 PM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Form submission from: Public Input Form for Agencies Under Review (Public/After Publication)

Submitted on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 - 19:07

Agency: UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE UIL

First Name: Melody

Last Name: Stephens

Title:

Organization you are affiliated with: Cody Stephens Go Big or Go Home Foundation

City: Crosby

State: Texas

Your Comments About the Staff Report, Including Recommendations Supported or Opposed: I support a recommendation that the UIL require ECGs be added as a part of the required sports Pre-participation Physicals.

Any Alternative or New Recommendations on This Agency:

I watched and listened to the hearing via the live cast link and I heard someone (I think it was the chairwoman) say that Texas is the "gold standard for the rest of the country", and I absolutely agreed with her. And because we are the standard that other states will follow, it is only fitting that Texas lead the way for the nation to require that our students receive ECG screenings at least twice (once before puberty and once after) before graduation. Having lost my son to Sudden Cardiac Arrest, I can assure you that I would gladly trade some 'false positive anxiety' or 'disqualified-to-play status' for a warm-bodied, breathing son. I understand that the ECG is not a perfect test, but to not have the opportunity to possibly discover an unknown potentially fatal problem, especially when it can be done for a few dollars and a few minutes of time, is not acceptable.

The students of Texas, and those of the nation to follow, deserve better and we can do much better than the current standards. Most of the children that die from SCA have NO symptoms and NO family history and a system that relies on asking questions about symptoms and family history is seriously flawed, and catches less than 3% of those with problems. We can do better and we must do better. Texas is the 'gold standard' especially for youth sports and as such, we must be prudent, and make the responsible decision to require ECGs be added to the sports physicals for students.

Dr. Fenrich commented that if screenings were to be implemented, then why only target athletes, but all students should be screened and I agree with him on this point. Currently athletes are required to have pre-participation physicals and since athletes are at an increased risk of SCA, it follows that athletes should be required to have ECGs at least twice in middle-high school, but I recommend that it be offered and available to all students as well, which Dr. Fenrich implied that he would support.

As with any implementation of a new program, there will be a learning curve with this program also. However the benefits of saving even one life, overwhelmingly outweigh the lack of sufficient 'scientific

data' to prove these tests to be effective. It has already been proven to save many lives, and by implementing the ECG screening across Texas, the potential to collect statistically significant data to analyze and report, should not be overlooked as another opportunity for Texas to be the leader and continue as 'the gold standard' for the nation and the world.

My Comment Will Be Made Public: I agree