



Physicians Caring for Texans

House Committee on Public Education
House Bill 850 by Rep. Suleman Lalani, MD
Oral Testimony by Maria Monge, MD, Submitted on Behalf of
the Texas Medical Association
Tuesday, April 29, 2025

- Hello, I'm Dr. Maria Monge, a pediatric and adolescent medicine physician from Austin, representing the Texas Medical Association (TMA). We are testifying *in support* of House Bill 850.
- Sudden cardiac arrest can strike without warning, even in young and healthy individuals. We know that quick access to Automated External Defibrillators – or AEDs – and timely intervention can improve survival rates.
- By equipping Texas schools with enough AEDs to provide care within three minutes of a cardiac emergency, this bill can save lives, especially for student athletes who may be at higher risk.^{1,2}
- A cardiac emergency response plan can prepare schools to act swiftly. We appreciate the focus on creating plans that incorporate evidence-based guidelines, such as those from the American Heart Association.
- Collaboration with emergency services can further promote deploying AEDs where they are most needed. And conducting annual training and practice drills in CPR and AED use can give school staff the skills and confidence they need to respond effectively in high-pressure situations.
- Beyond its immediate health benefits, this legislation prioritizes grants for schools with a higher population of educationally disadvantaged students³, supporting their access to AEDs and life-saving training.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 850.

¹ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9965876/#sec6-jcdd-10-00068>

² <https://www.sca-aware.org/about-sudden-cardiac-arrest/latest-statistics>

³ Under Tex. Ed. Code §5.001, "educationally disadvantaged" means eligible to participate in the national free or reduced-price lunch program.