

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on County Affairs
For HB 4171

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Hearing Date: April 5, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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The American Heart Association (AHA) supports House Bill 4171, which will allow local governments to require Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in certain types of buildings. AEDs are a crucial component of the chain of survival during a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), which is the most common cause of out-of-hospital death. Approximately 30,000 Texans experience an out-of-hospital SCA each year.

Studies have shown that more than 90% of SCA victims can be saved with timely interventions like AED or CPR. Unfortunately, many businesses and organizations have chosen not to have AEDs because they are not required to do so by either the local or state government. This lack of requirement has created a situation where many structures where cardiac arrest would be likely to occur do not have AEDs. By specifically authorizing local governments to require AEDs in certain types of buildings, HB 4171 will encourage better emergency planning and strengthen the systems of care for emergency cardiac arrest in local communities. This is important because when AEDs are readily available in public places, bystanders who witness an SCA are more likely to intervene and provide life-saving care. This, in turn, can significantly improve survival rates.

House Bill 4171 is necessary to ensure that more buildings have AEDs, which will increase the likelihood of survival for SCA victims by ensuring that those who are at risk have access to life-saving equipment. The AHA believes that by passing this bill, Texas can take an important step towards improving emergency cardiac care and saving more lives in our communities. We urge the Texas legislature to pass this bill and help protect the health and safety of its citizens.