

## CHILDREN'S CARDIOMYOPATHY FOUNDATION

### SAFE PLAY Act Talking Points

- My name is [Name]. As a constituent and a parent/grandparent/caregiver/advocate of a child with cardiomyopathy, I am here/calling today to request your support of the Supporting Athletes, Families and Educators to Protect the Lives of Athletic Youth (SAFE PLAY) Act (H.R.6007/S.3347), which was introduced by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ-09).
- The SAFE PLAY Act is comprehensive legislation that focuses on various sports safety issues, such as heat exposure, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) training, concussion response, and energy drink consumption. It also encourages best practices on preventing, documenting, and addressing cardiac emergencies, and includes provisions for educating parents, schools, and health professionals about higher-risk heart conditions such as cardiomyopathy.
- Cardiomyopathy is a chronic and potentially life-threatening heart disease that is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest in youth. Cardiomyopathy affects the heart's ability to pump blood and may lead to heart failure, irregular heartbeats (arrhythmia), and a heart transplant in severe cases.
- Because symptoms are not always obvious, the disease may stay undiagnosed for years. If untreated, youth athletes who have cardiomyopathy may be at an increased risk of sudden cardiac death.
- According to a 2019 study by the National Athletic Trainer's Association, 75% of sports-related deaths in youth are cardiac-related, and the majority of incidents occur during practice. Recent studies highlighted by Parent Heart Watch, a national organization focused on protecting youth from sudden cardiac arrest, state that sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is the leading cause of death on school campuses.
- Premature deaths can be prevented if youth athletes with a heart condition like cardiomyopathy are identified earlier and properly treated. It is estimated that at least 30,000 children in the United States are living with some form of cardiomyopathy, but many are still not accounted for because of missed diagnosis.
- The SAFE PLAY Act requests that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) develop and disseminate educational resources to encourage families to evaluate their cardiac health history, check for cardiomyopathy symptoms and risk factors for sudden cardiac arrest, and seek medical screening if necessary.
- Additionally, the bill requests the CDC to collect national data on how many student athletes are impacted by concussions, heat-related illnesses, and cardiomyopathy and other cardiac conditions. The bill also would provide grants to states for CPR training, automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in public schools, and setting guidelines for emergency preparedness in case of an adverse cardiac event.
- [Explain how cardiomyopathy affects your family and how the SAFE PLAY Act will help protect children with cardiomyopathy.]
- As your constituent, I hope that I can count on your support for H.R.6007/S.3347. The SAFE PLAY Act can help safeguard young athletes with an underlying heart condition, so they don't fall victim to sudden cardiac death. By enacting this legislation, Congress can lower the incidence of injuries and cardiac emergencies through preventive and educational measures. This bill means a lot to me and to thousands of children with cardiomyopathy, including my own child/a child dear to me.