Talking Points for Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

Background

- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, thousands of children die from sudden cardiac arrest every year.
- It is the #1 cause of death of student athletes.
- The Journal of American Board of Family Medicine published a study in 2012 showing that 72% of all students that died from SCA reported having symptoms. That's why this bill is so important as it educates parents, coaches and students about these symptoms.

The Need for this Legislation

- This bill is the only law that seeks to prevent sudden cardiac arrest in the student population. It requires the following:
    - Parents have to read and sign a form acknowledging the risk of SCA and warning signs of conditions that lead to SCA;
    - Coaches take an annual training course about SCA (currently a ten minute video); and
    - Coaches must remove players that faint or pass out during or immediately following athletic activity. Additionally, coaches need to be aware of other warning signs so they can alert the parents.
- This law is budget-neutral.
- It is modeled after the concussion legislation that has passed in all fifty states.
- It is an awareness bill. It makes SCA a household term.
- The law was first passed in PA. It has been passed in several other states as well. For an updated list, visit www.simonsfund.org/sudden-cardiac-arrest-legislation-by-state.

Other Info That's Good to Know

- Heart screenings and AEDs save lives; however they are not required by this bill. They add a big cost and many lawmakers run from "unfunded mandates" (a law that requires action but doesn't provide funding for it).
- This law requires coaches and parents to contemplate the reality of a student collapsing. This will lead to the self-realization that AEDs and CPR are needed to address that situation and steps will be taken by the communities.