

Rhode Island Chapter

INCORPORATED IN RHODE ISLAND

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



3/17/2026

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RIAAP opposition to The Children's Cardiac Safety Act (HB7480)

Dear Chairman McNamara and members of the committee,

The Rhode Island Chapter of The American Academy of Pediatrics (RIAAP) can not support House Bill 7480 as written. While the intention of the authors is no doubt to minimize cardiac death in our state's school age population, we have multiple concerns.

1) The bill limits the scope to cover only those involved in organized sports. In fact all children are indeed considered to be active and carry the same cardiac risks with activity whether that's on a playing field, dance stage, rock climbing wall or VR video game match.

2) All children already require an annual physical and the RIAAP already recommends cardiac screening questioning of all children every year with referral to pediatric cardiology for all those at risk.

3) The bill calls for sports preparticipation forms to be created, signed and processed every sports season creating an additional administrative burden on a system that is already overwhelmed. Producing such forms for all sports teams does not represent increased safety for the students. Annual questioning and documentation with appropriate referral is the standard and the recommendation of the national organizations mentioned in the bill who are the experts on school safety and pediatric cardiac conditions including sudden death.

It is the hope of RIAAP's leadership that the authors of this bill will accept our offer and work together to reexamine this issue to create the best possible outcomes for all our students.

Respectfully,

Peter Pogacar MD FAAP
Immediate Past President
Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics