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Testimony of Marcus Owens

Co-Founder of Daniel E. Rumph II Foundation

Chairman Roebuck and members of the committee, my name is Marcus Owens and I reside in Newark, DE by way of Philadelphia, PA. I am the uncle of Daniel Rumph II and co-founder of Daniel E. Rumph II Foundation. I am honored to provide this testimony on behalf of our family, foundation and supporters for House Bill 1803.

Five years ago, my twenty-one year old nephew collapsed and died while playing basketball at our local recreation center. The cause was Hypertrophy Cardiomyopathy (Enlarged Heart). The recreation center did not have an AED; his friends did not know how to perform CPR and the paramedic took 50 mins to arrive. The lost of my sister only child on mother day is a hurt that's indescribable. I didn't want Danny's short life be forgotten and not have a purpose.

We started the Daniel E. Rumph II Foundation to prevent the list of other young people and to bring awareness to HCM, the leading cause of Sudden Cardiac Arrest. The foundation mission is to bring awareness to SCA and to provide screening to youth that may have an underline heart issue. We also provide free CPR/AED training to lay people in the Philadelphia communities. To date; the DER II foundation have placed 12 AED Programs in twelve different recreation centers in Phila and Montgomery County. We've screened all of Cheyney University Athletes for two years; and we training over 500 youths and 500 adults in CPR/AED. Our participation in several health fairs allows us bring aware of sudden cardiac arrest and the important of being certified in CPR/AED to our communities.

We are thrilled that this bill includes support for the placement AED devices and cardiovascular screening pilot program. Screening the heart is the first step to preventing sudden cardiac arrest. Placing AED into schools, recreation centers, boys and girls clubs and PAL centers will save lives. The screening of youths is now affordable and it should add to their physicals.

I was diagnosed with HCM four days before my nephew died; so I'm not just the President of DER II Foundation I'm living with it. My enlarged heart was detected because I was screened by my cardiologist.

Sincerely,

Marcus Owens