My name is Melissa Johnson and I live in Kalamazoo, MI. I am here today to tell a story that is very difficult for me to share but the potential reward is too great, I want to save lives.

On September 8, 2013 my life changed forever. While playing basketball at a local park with a group of young people that he had coached and taught for years my fiancé, Steve Dunning went into cardiac arrest.

He had been taking high blood pressure medication, had his blood pressure under control and was 2 months post his yearly physical. He was active, a basketball official. Never did we ever imagine a heart attack would happen…not to us.

I got "that" call, the one you read about, watch on tv or even hear about. That fall day, I got that call telling me that Steve had a medical emergency. I rushed to be by his side. Upon arrival to the park, I asked how long he had been nonresponsive, the police told me for quite some time, that out of all the people that were present, no one knew how to perform CPR, they just knelt next to him and waited….for 8 minutes…till emergency responders arrived. As I watched a team of professionals attempt to save Steve's life, a young man came to my side and said simply "I'm sorry, I didn't know what to do". TODAY would have been Steve's 50th birthday.

Daily, I am haunted by what could have been done…haunted by the guilt that I know a few of our these young community members have because they watched who they referred to as "Coach" and "Superman" lay helpless and had no idea how to help. A 47 year old father, granddaddy, coach, educator, friend and the love of my life was taken too soon.

If all those students had learned CPR in school before graduation, my fiancé, Steve Dunning might still be alive today. Is there no better gift we can give our children, our families, our communities than the gift of life?

Passing this bill will guarantee that we can save the life of someone's Steve.