



**Office of State Representative Dan Huberty
District 127**

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Huberty Files HB 76 to Protect Student Athletes

Austin, TX - Today, State Representative Dan Huberty filed House Bill (HB) 76 in honor of the late Cody Stephens, a student athlete from House District 127 who died from an undiagnosed heart issue in May 2012.

"Cody was a Senior offensive lineman at Crosby High School who proudly wore number 76. Set to attend Tarleton State University on a football scholarship, he had the world at his fingertips, but his life was tragically cut short. Cody didn't get the opportunity to have an ECG as a part of his sports physical, which could have found the heart issue that caused his death. This preventative measure could have easily saved his life," Huberty said. "In an attempt to ensure the health and safety of other Texas students, I am once again partnering with the Cody Stephens Foundation to work on implementing this much-needed screening update," Huberty added.

HB 76 would require UIL athletes to receive ECGs prior to the start of any athletic activities, including both competition and practice. Student athletes already receive a physical before extracurricular activity and this legislation simply adds an ECG to the full examination. The tests would be performed before a student's Freshman and Junior years of high school competition, as conditions could change as they mature. A waiver may be provided to a student for any reason.

"Each year, student athletes across the country die from exercise-induced cardiac arrest. An ECG is a medical test that can be administered to detect the early signs of heart disease or disorders," said Scott Stephens, father to Cody and founder of the Go Big or Go Home Foundation. "The completion of an ECG is a big step in the early identification of heart disorders and can prevent the tragic deaths of more student athletes just like Cody," he added.

Just recently reelected to represent House District 127, Huberty will enter his fifth term of service in January 2019. HB 76 is the first bill he has filed for the 86th Legislative Session. He remains dedicated to addressing the many issues and challenges that lie ahead for his constituents and all Texans.

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