

**CHAIR**  
PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTS

**COMMITTEES**  
CITIES 2  
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND SMALL BUSINESS  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM, PARKS  
AND RECREATION  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
WOMEN'S ISSUES

**THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR APRIL N.M. BASKIN**  
63<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

**ALBANY OFFICE**  
815 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247  
PHONE: 518-455-2426

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
37 FRANKLIN ST., SUITE 550  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202  
PHONE: 716-826-2683

**E-MAIL**  
baskin@nysenate.gov

July 24, 2025

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Brenda Alesii, Communications Director, 716-861-7288 (mobile)

### **Senator Baskin's "Desha's Law" Bill Signed Today by Gov. Hochul**

*Freshman Senator Garnered Unanimous Support in the State Legislature*

**PITTSFORD NY** – Against the backdrop of the Buffalo Bills training camp practice field, Governor Kathy Hochul today signed Desha's Law (S.5539A/A.785A), a bill requiring every public school in New York State to have a cardiac emergency response plan in place. The Governor was joined by the bill's sponsor, Senator April N.M. Baskin; the bill was named in honor of her 12 year old cousin, Desha Sanders, who died after suffering cardiac arrest several years ago as she played basketball with her teammates in an elementary school gym.

Desha's school had an AED on site, but the staff was unable to locate the keys for the unit. Precious minutes ticked by. Emergency medical personnel rushed her to Kenmore Mercy Hospital, where she died.

Baskin and Hochul were joined by several members of Desha's family, other state legislators, American Heart Association representatives, and NFL and Buffalo Bills administrators and leaders. The team and league have advocated for cardiac health and the implementation of plans placed in schools after Bills safety Damar Hamlin suffered cardiac arrest in January 2023 while playing the Bengals in Cincinnati.

**State Senator April N.M. Baskin said,** "With the implementation of Desha's Law, a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP), a detailed outline on what steps to take in a cardiac emergency, will be in place at every public school across the state. May Desha's memory save the lives of future student athletes and continue to live in all of our hearts forever."

“Today is an important day in New York as we take a major step to protect our kids and school communities in the moments that matter most,” **Governor Hochul said.** “No family should have to experience the heartbreak of losing a child when a life could have been saved.

**Anika Florence-Hall, Desha’s mother, said,** “Our grief is deep, but knowing Desha inspired this legislation means so much. My family and I are grateful for the passage of this law. Desha will help so many others who I hope will never face the same kind of tragedy.”

Representative Michaelle Solages sponsored the life-saving legislation in the Assembly.

###