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**1250 Connecticut Ave, NW, #800, Washington, DC 20036**

June 30, 2011

**Talking Points: The Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices Act**

I am \_\_\_\_\_ from (name of city and state)

I was personally affected by sudden cardiac arrest when (insert personal story). Sudden cardiac arrest is a particularly deadly form of heart disease generally caused by an electrical problem.

Unfortunately, more than 90% of sudden cardiac arrest victims die outside of a hospital. But, prompt CPR and defibrillation, using an AED (automated external defibrillator) to restore the heart back to its normal rhythm, can more than double the chances of survival. Communities with comprehensive AED programs have reached survival rates of about 40%.

The federal funded Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices Program is designed to save lives of people who suffer from sudden cardiac arrest.  This competitively awarded program provides funding to states to buy AEDs for locations where sudden cardiac arrests are likely to occur and trains lay rescuers and first responders to use them.

Please do your part to help save lives. During the 2012 congressional appropriations process, please restore funding for the Rural and Community Access to Emergency Devices Program to its 2005 level of $9 million when 47 states received funding for this life-saving program.

Thank you.

**Steering Committee**

*American Heart Association*

*Children’s Cardiomyopathy Foundation*

*Heart Rhythm Society*

*Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association*

*Mended Hearts, Inc.*

*Parent Heart Watch*

*Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes*

*(SADS) Foundation*

*Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association*

*Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation*

*WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease*

**Coalition Members**

Alliance for Aging Research

Allison’s Heart Foundation

American Association of

Cardiovascular and Pulmonary

Rehabilitation

American Association of Critical

Care Nurses

American Association of Heart

Failure Nurses

American College of Cardiology

Anthony Bates Foundation

American College of Preventive

Medicine

American College of Sports Medicine

American Society of Echocardiography

American Society of Exercise

Physiologists

Association of Black Cardiologists

Black Women’s Health Imperative

Cardiac Electrophysiology Society

Center for Resuscitation Science

The Chad Foundation

Cheney Cardiovascular Institute

Citizen CPR

Florida Heart Institute

Initial Life Support Foundation

International Association of

Fire Chiefs

Ken Heart Foundation

Matthew Krug Foundation

National Association of EMS

Educators

National Association of EMTs

National Athletic Trainers Association

National Emergency Number

Association

National Forum for Heart Disease

and Stroke Prevention

Pediatric and Congenital

Electrophysiology Society

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses

Association

Project ADAM

Project SAVE

Run for Sarah Foundation

Saving Young Hearts

Society for Heart Attack Prevention

and Eradication (SHAPE)

Society for Women’s Health Research

Take Heart America

