

April 6, 2009

Dear Representative:

**Please co-sponsor H.R. 1380, the Josh Miller HEARTS Act to provide
Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in schools**

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is the nation's leading cause of death, killing nearly 300,000 Americans each year – more than breast cancer, lung cancer and HIV/AIDS combined. It results from the abrupt loss of blood flow due to an electrical disruption of the heart's that limits its ability to pump blood and carry oxygen to the other vital organs. SCA can strike people of all races, genders and ages, including children and teenagers. Risk factors include congenital and genetic conditions, as well as a previous heart attack, diabetes, coronary artery disease, obesity and smoking.

In 2008, the House of Representatives passed the Josh Miller HEARTS Act, which would create a federal grant program to fund the purchase of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and corresponding training to implement school-based action response plans that address SCA. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on the measure prior to adjournment.

Representative Betty Sutton has reintroduced the legislation in this new session of Congress, and H.R.1380 has been referred to the Energy & Commerce and Education & Labor committees.

As organizations dedicated to increasing awareness about cardiovascular health and advocating for improved emergency response and prevention of SCA, we would like to share with you this booklet, *Saving Lives in Schools and Sports*, which we hope you will find useful in learning more about SCA and the need for broader deployment of AEDs in your communities.

Please join your colleagues in co-sponsoring H.R. 1380. Contact Diana Feitl at **202-224-3121** or via email at diana.feitl@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association (HCMA)

(www.4hcma.org)

Parent Heart Watch

(www.parentheartwatch.org)

Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes (SADS) Foundation

(www.sads.org)

Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association (SCAA)

(www.suddencardiacarrest.org)