

March 1, 2012

The Honorable Pete Olson
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3006

Dear Representative Olson:

The undersigned member organizations of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition are writing to offer their strong support for the **Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2011 (H.R. 3511)**. We applaud your efforts in introducing legislation to increase the survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) through development of a nationally uniform baseline of protection for persons who use an automatic external defibrillator (AED) in an attempt to save a life.

As you know, SCA strikes roughly 295,000 individuals a year – people of all ages, races and physical health. Approximately 70 percent of those victims could be saved if someone intervenes and responds by engaging the emergency system, performing CPR and locating and using an AED.

Sadly, survival rates for out-of-hospital SCA victims have remained a low eight percent for thirty years. Immediate CPR and early defibrillation, using an AED, can more than double a patient's chance of survival, but only if a person acts.

Removing barriers to bystander intervention is paramount to saving lives. Just as “hands only” CPR has placed fewer barriers in the way of bystander assisted CPR, this legislation too can generate more willingness on the part of the public to intervene and provide lifesaving care at a time when minutes matter most.

We feel strongly that the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2011 has the potential to save thousands of lives each year and stand ready to work with you, your staff and colleagues to advance this important legislation for the safety of all Americans.

Thank you for your leadership on this lifesaving legislation.

Sincerely,

American College of Cardiology
American College of Sports Medicine
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, Inc.
Heart Rhythm Society
Florida Heart Research Institute

Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2011
Letter of Support

Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association – HCMA
International Association of Fire Chiefs
JTB Foundation
KEN (Kids Endangered Now) Heart Foundation
Parent Heart Watch
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Project S.A.V.E. at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta
R. Andrew Helgeson Memorial Foundation
SADS Foundation (Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndromes)
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Association
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation
The Chad Foundation for Athletes and Artists
The John Taylor Babbitt Foundation
The Mended Hearts, Inc.
The Travis R. Roy Sudden Cardiac Arrest Fund