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John C. Lewin, M.D.

September 21, 2011

The Honorable Phil Roe
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roe,

On behalf of the American College of Cardiology (ACC), I am writing to commend you for your actions on September 20 to perform CPR and administer defibrillation on a man in cardiac arrest, saving his life. The ACC would like to name you a "Cardiologist for a Day."

The ACC is a professional medical society and teaching institution made up of 39,000 cardiovascular professionals from around the world – including 90 percent of practicing cardiologists in the United States and a growing number of registered nurses, clinical nurse specialists, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and clinical pharmacists.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year, approximately 300,000 persons in the United States experience an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. Approximately 92 percent of people who experience cardiac arrest outside the hospital die.

Nearly half of cardiac arrest events are witnessed. Yet, the majority of persons who experience cardiac arrest do not receive bystander-assisted cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or other timely interventions that are known to improve the likelihood of survival. Effective CPR provided immediately can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. Another important part of the chain of survival is the use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to restore a normal heart rhythm. As you witnessed, new technology has made AEDs simple and user-friendly. Clear audio and visual cues tell users what to do when using an AED and coach people through CPR. A shock is delivered only if the victim needs it.

Again, the ACC commends you for your actions yesterday.

Sincerely,

Jack Lewin, M.D.
CEO