



www.stopcardiacarrest.org

## 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

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.