
NEWS FROM:

CONGRESSMAN DARRELL ISSA

Serving California's 49th District



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For Immediate Release
Monday, February 4, 2008

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NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL ENDORSES ISSA RESOLUTION ON SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS

Washington, DC – The National Safety Council, a non-profit non-governmental organization with almost one hundred years of service in reducing unintentional injuries and deaths in America's workplaces, highways, homes and communities, has endorsed H.Res. 648, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day. The state of California proclaimed September 12 as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day on September 12, 2006.

“Awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and ensuring defibrillators are available in schools and other public buildings can save lives. Raising awareness of sudden cardiac arrest is a task worthy of Congress’ attention,” said Rep. Issa. “I’m pleased to have the National Safety Council as a partner in this effort.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating, causing blood to stop flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA usually causes death if not treated in minutes.

Annually, 250,000 to 450,000 Americans have sudden cardiac arrest, and ninety-five percent of these people die within minutes. Rapid treatment of SCA with a defibrillator, a device that sends an electrical shock to the heart, can be lifesaving.

The introduction of H.Res. 648 was inspired by the life of Travis Roy and the work his family has undertaken since his death. On May 20, 2005, 14 year-old Travis Roy was at school in Murrieta, California, when he suffered sudden cardiac arrest. His school, like most schools, did not have a defibrillator and, tragically, Travis died because treatment could not be administered fast enough.

Since Travis’ death, his family has campaigned to raise awareness of Sudden Cardiac Arrest and to get defibrillators placed in schools. To date, several schools in the southern California area have implemented defibrillator programs, including the Murrieta Valley Unified School District, Temecula Valley Unified School District, San Jacinto Unified School District and Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego.

A copy of the letter endorsing H.Res. 648 is attached.

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January 28, 2008

The Honorable Darrell Issa
United States House of Representatives
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Issa,

We are pleased to offer our support of H. Res. 648, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Day.

It is unfortunate that many preventable deaths from cardiac arrest occur despite the overwhelming body of research documenting that cardiac arrest victims who receive early defibrillation have an increased likelihood of survival. Increased public awareness campaigns and training in CPR and the proper use of AED's is a common sense approach to prevent many future cardiac arrest deaths.

The National Safety Council is a non-profit, non-governmental organization with almost one hundred years of service reducing unintentional injuries and deaths in America's workplaces, highways, homes and communities. NSC has trained nearly 9 million first aid/CPR/AED responders through its network of 2,500 training centers.

The Council applauds you for introducing this resolution and appreciates your support of past CPR/AED awareness legislation. Please feel free to have your staff contact Mr. O'Connell, NSC's Executive Director for Government Affairs to discuss how we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan C. McMillan".

Alan McMillan
President and CEO

cc William K. O'Connell, NSC Executive Director for Government Affairs

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