S. 2528

To provide funds for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and the training of individuals in advanced cardiac life support.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 10, 2000

Ms. Collins (for herself, Mr. Feingold, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Abraham, Mr. Wellstone, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Dorgan, Mr. Grams, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. L. Chafee, Mr. Enzi, and Ms. Snowe) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide funds for the purchase of automatic external defibrillators and the training of individuals in advanced cardiac life support.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Rural Access to Emer-
- 5 gency Devices Act" or the "Rural AED Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress makes the following findings:

- 1 (1) Heart disease is the leading cause of death 2 in the United States.
 - (2) The American Heart Association estimates that 250,000 Americans die from sudden cardiac arrest each year.
 - (3) A cardiac arrest victim's chance of survival drops 10 percent for every minute that passes before his or her heart is returned to normal rhythm.
 - (4) Because most cardiac arrest victims are initially in ventricular fibrillation, and the only treatment for ventricular fibrillation is defibrillation, prompt access to defibrillation to return the heart to normal rhythm is essential.
 - (5) Lifesaving technology, the automated external defibrillator, has been developed to allow trained lay rescuers to respond to cardiac arrest by using this simple device to shock the heart into normal rhythm.
 - (6) Those people who are likely to be first on the scene of a cardiac arrest situation in many communities, particularly smaller and rural communities, lack sufficient numbers of automated external defibrillators to respond to cardiac arrest in a timely manner.

- 1 (7) The American Heart Association estimates 2 that more than 50,000 deaths could be prevented 3 each year if defibrillators were more widely available 4 to designated responders.
- 5 (8) Legislation should be enacted to encourage 6 greater public access to automated external 7 defibrillators in communities across the United 8 States.

9 SEC. 3. GRANTS.

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- 10 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
 11 Human Services, acting through the Rural Health Out12 reach Office of the Health Resources and Services Admin13 istration, shall award grants to community partnerships
 14 that meet the requirements of subsection (b) to enable
 15 such partnerships to purchase equipment and provide
- 17 (b) COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.—A community 18 partnership meets the requirements of this subsection if 19 such partnership—

training as provided for in subsection (c).

20 (1) is composed of local emergency response en-21 tities such as community training facilities, local 22 emergency responders, fire and rescue departments, 23 police, community hospitals, and local non-profit en-24 tities and for-profit entities concerned about cardiac 25 arrest survival rates;

1	(2) evaluates the local community emergency
2	response times to assess whether they meet the
3	standards established by national public health orga-
4	nizations such as the American Heart Association
5	and the American Red Cross: and

and the American Red Cross; and

- 6 (3) submits to the Secretary of Health and 7 Human Services an application at such time, in such 8 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-9 retary may require.
- 10 (c) Use of Funds.—Amounts provided under a 11 grant under this section shall be used—
- 12 (1) to purchase automatic external defibrillators 13 that have been approved, or cleared for marketing, 14 by the Food and Drug Administration; and
- 15 (2) to provide defibrillator and basic life sup-16 port training in automated external defibrillator 17 usage through the American Heart Association, the 18 American Red Cross, or other nationally recognized 19 training courses.
- 20 (d) Report.—Not later than 4 years after the date 21 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report containing data relating to whether the increased availability of

defibrillators has affected survival rates in the commu-

- 1 nities in which grantees under this section operated. The
- 2 procedures under which the Secretary obtains data and
- 3 prepares the report under this subsection shall not impose
- 4 an undue burden on program participants under this sec-
- 5 tion.
- 6 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 7 authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for fiscal years
- 8 2001 through 2003 to carry out this section.

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