

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 530

Designating the week beginning October 5, 2008, as “National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Week”.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 2008

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Designating the week beginning October 5, 2008, as
“National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Week”.

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas sudden cardiac takes the lives of more than 250,000 people in the United States each year, according to the Heart Rhythm Society;

Whereas anyone can experience sudden cardiac arrest, including infants, high school athletes, and people in their 30s and 40s who have no sign of heart disease;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is extremely deadly, with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute giving it a mortality rate of approximately 95 percent;

Whereas, to have a chance of surviving an attack, the American Heart Association states that victims of sudden cardiac arrest must receive a lifesaving defibrillation within the first 4 to 6 minutes of an attack;

Whereas, for every minute that passes without a shock from an automated external defibrillator, the chance of survival decreases by approximately 10 percent;

Whereas lifesaving treatments for sudden cardiac arrest are effective if they can be administered in time;

Whereas, according to joint research by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, implantable cardioverter defibrillators are 98 percent effective at protecting those at risk for sudden cardiac arrest;

Whereas, according to the American Heart Association, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator more than double a victim's chances of survival;

Whereas the Yale-New Haven Hospital and the New England Journal of Medicine state that women and African-Americans are at a higher risk than the general population of dying as a result of sudden cardiac arrest, yet this fact is not well known to those at risk;

Whereas there is a need for comprehensive educational efforts designed to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and related therapies among medical professionals and the greater public in order to promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease and to improve quality of life; and

Whereas early October is an appropriate time to observe National Sudden Cardiac Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) designates the week beginning October 5,
3 2008, as “National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness
4 Week”;

5 (2) supports—

6 (A) the goals and ideals of National Sudden
7 Cardiac Arrest Awareness Week; and

8 (B) efforts to educate people about sudden
9 cardiac arrest and to raise awareness about the
10 risk of sudden cardiac arrest, identifying warn-
11 ing signs, and the need to seek medical atten-
12 tion in a timely manner;

13 (3) acknowledges the critical importance of sud-
14 den cardiac arrest awareness to improving national
15 cardiovascular health; and

16 (4) calls upon the people of the United States
17 to observe this week with appropriate programs and
18 activities.

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