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April 17, 2010

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Hon. James R. Roebuck, Jr., Chairman
Hon. Paul I. Clymer, Chairman
Members, Education Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Hon. Roebuck, Hon. Clymer, and Members of the Education Committee:

The Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) Foundation, a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Pittsburgh, strongly supports House Bill 1803, introduced by Hon. John J. Siptroth. HB 1803 calls for implementation of a number of measures designed to increase public safety in school settings by preventing SCA and responding effectively when sudden respiratory and cardiac emergencies occur. These measures include screening programs, more widespread training in CPR and use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), more extensive deployment of AEDs, and safeguards to ensure AEDs are readily accessible and properly maintained.

Passage of H.B. 1803 will not only make schools in Pennsylvania safer for students, it will make schools safer for everyone in the school community—including teachers, coaches, administrators, parents and grandparents.

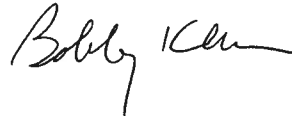
SCA leads to about 300,000 deaths each year in the U.S.—more than the combined number of deaths from AIDS, Alzheimers, assault with weapons, breast cancer, colon cancer, house fires, motor vehicle accidents, prostate cancer, and suicides (www.sca-aware.org). SCA affects people of all ages, including young students like [Gregory Moyer](#), 15, who died from SCA at a high school in Pennsylvania in 2000.

On average, only 7% of those who suffer SCA each year survive. Yet when AEDs are readily available and used quickly by bystanders, 38% survive. People like [David Belkin](#) Esq., a member of our Board of Directors, whose life was saved in 2007 in an elementary school in Pennsylvania that had just acquired an AED.

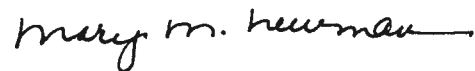
We feel so strongly that schools should be prepared to handle sudden cardiac emergencies that we have developed a national campaign called [You Can Save a Life at School™](#). If you are not already convinced, please take a few minutes to read the compelling story that contrasts the outcomes of two young friends who suffered SCA, [Kaitlin Forbes and Maggie O'Malley](#).

The potential lifesaving impact of H.B. 1803 really shouldn't be a matter of debate. It is just a matter of common sense and doing the right thing. We urge you to support this important legislation.

Best regards,



Bobby V. Khan, MD, PhD
Chairman, Board of Directors



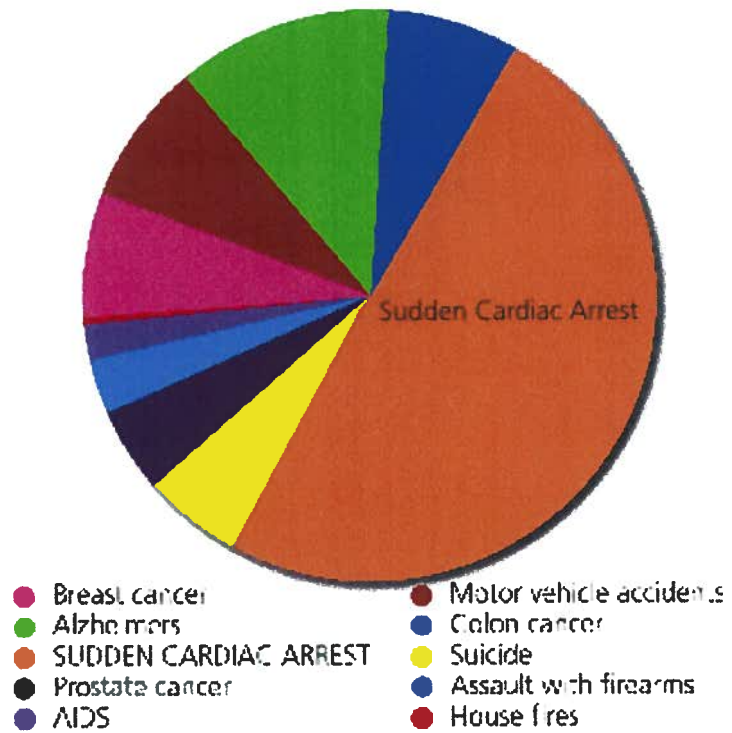
Mary M. Newman
President

Attachments: Figure 1. Causes of Death in U.S.
Figure 2. Impact of Bystander Use of AEDs

cc: Hon. Mike Turzai, David Belkin, Esq., Rachel Moyer

Figure 1: Causes of Death in the U.S.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE U.S.

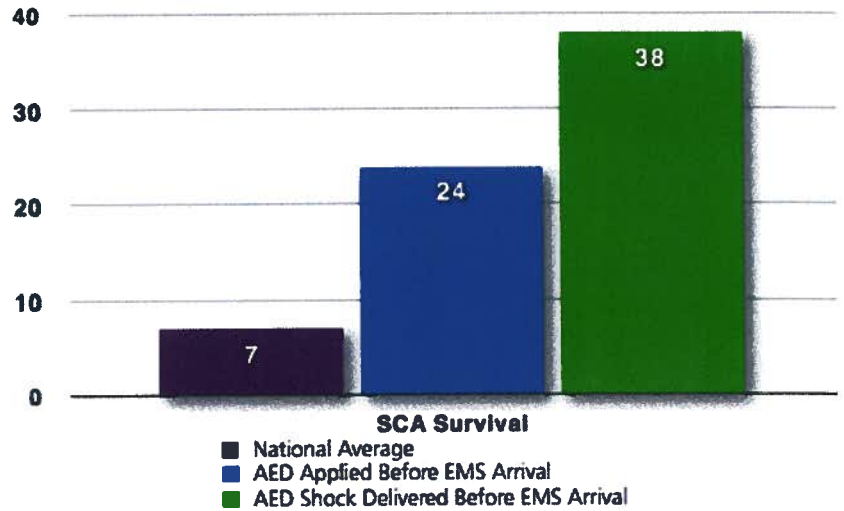


SOURCE: Compiled by Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation, www.sca-aware.org, 2010, from Centers for Disease Control (2008) and American Heart Association (2009) data

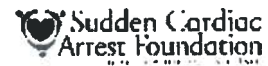


Figure 2: Impact of Bystander Use of AEDs on Survival

IMPACT OF BYSTANDER USE OF AEDS ON SURVIVAL FROM SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST



SOURCE: Weisfeldt ML, Sitlani CM, Ornato JP, et al., on behalf of the ROC Investigators. J Am Coll Cardiol 2010;55:1713-1720.



www.sca-aware.org