



**National Center for
Early Defibrillation**

Community Resources to Help Save Lives

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July 25, 2001

Members of the United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As directors of the National Center for Early Defibrillation, we would like to express our strong support for the **Community Access to Emergency Defibrillation Act of 2001**. As you may be aware, the National Center for Early Defibrillation is a non-profit organization based at the University of Pittsburgh. Its mission is to foster optimal immediate care for victims of sudden cardiac arrest by providing leadership, expertise and information related to early defibrillation.

Science has confirmed that the cure for most cases of sudden cardiac arrest is prompt defibrillation. The problem is that most victims do not receive this care quickly enough for it to be effective. As a result, only seven percent survive to be discharged home from the hospital. However, as many as 50 percent of those with treatable rhythms could survive if they were treated within five minutes of collapse with a defibrillator. In fact, **if every community could achieve a 20 percent survival rate, an estimated 50,000 lives could be saved each year.**

As a national center providing information resources and support services to communities throughout the United States, we are keenly aware that **one of the chief barriers to implementing community defibrillation programs is a lack of funding**. The bill proposed by Senators Kennedy and Frist will make it possible for many communities to overcome this barrier. It is hard to imagine a more cost-effective way to preserve human life. On behalf of all those whose lives will be saved as a result of this legislation—and their loved ones—we **urge you to support this critically important legislation**.

Sincerely,

Vince N. Mosesso, MD
Medical Director

Paul M. Paris, MD
Associate Medical Director

Mary M. Newman
Executive Director