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Contact: Marla Viorst
Telephone: (202) 226-7747

LEGISLATIVE VICTORY FOR CAPPS HER COMMUNITY ACCESS TO EMERGENCY DEFIBRILLATION ACT PASSES HOUSE WITH OVERWHELMING SUPPORT

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Capps achieved a legislative victory today with the passage of her Community Access to Emergency Defibrillation Act (Community AED Act), which received overwhelming bipartisan support as part of the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act.

“Cardiac arrest kills hundreds of thousands of people each year,” said Capps, a registered nurse. “By educating and preparing people to properly react and assist someone having a heart attack is quite literally the difference between life and death.”

The Community AED Act, which passed the Senate earlier this year, will provide local grants to train local emergency personnel to treat cardiac arrest victims, purchase and place AEDs in public places, and train members of the public in CPR and automated external defibrillation. The legislation also encourages private companies to purchase these devices and train their employees.

“As a nurse, I know that educating people to recognize symptoms and react immediately in the face of a stroke or cardiac arrest will save lives,” said Capps. “Providing targeted federal resources to local public health efforts is a cost-effective way to prevent tragedy. I am pleased that the House has joined our Senate colleagues to pass this important, life-saving measure.”

Congresswoman Capps has authored a number of important health care bills. Her Nurse Reinvestment Act, versions of which have passed the House and Senate, is designed to help put an end to the national nursing shortage through recruitment and education programs, continuing educational opportunities and faculty development. Final passage of a consensus bill is expected soon. She also authored the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act (STOP Stroke Act) to provide resources to improve stroke education, research and patient care. This bill has passed the Senate and is waiting for consideration in the House.

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