

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 29, 2023

Administrator Robin Carnahan
General Services Administration
301 7th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Administrator Carnahan:

We are writing regarding the General Services Administration's (GSA) implementation of Congressional directives around automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and their deployment in federally owned or managed buildings.

In recent months, the life-saving impacts of AEDs has been made abundantly clear. In January 2023, as millions of Americans watched, NFL player Damar Hamlin suffered an on-field cardiac arrest as a result of a hit during a nationally televised game. With the quick intervention of medical staff and the lifesaving use of an AED, Mr. Hamlin survived and is well on the road to recovery.

While the sudden cardiac arrests (SCA) and other emergencies that happen in buildings owned by the federal government are far less dramatic or high profile as Mr. Hamlin's injury, the importance of a quick medical response and the lifesaving effects of an AED are no less real. This reality was reiterated over the summer when LeBron James Jr. suffered a cardiac arrest and collapsed during basketball practice at the University of Southern California.

These high-profile incidents underline the fact that SCA is a leading cause of death in the United States, with approximately 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occurring each year. This means that nearly 1,000 Americans suffer an SCA event every day, and survival rates are extremely low without immediate intervention. The use of an AED significantly increases the chances of survival, which is why it is so important that federal buildings are equipped with this life-saving technology.

As you know, Congress has taken action to address the availability of AEDs in Fiscal Year 2023's annual spending bills. In December, Congress included specific directive language in the Explanatory Statement accompanying P.L. 117-328, the final Omnibus FY23 Appropriations Bill:

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in Public Buildings.—In addition to the House report directive on Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) in public buildings, the agreement directs GSA to work with the Department of Health and Human Services to examine whether AEDs should be required in federally owned buildings under the custody and control of GSA. GSA and HHS shall issue an updated FMR bulletin no later than 1 year after enactment of this Act.

Congressional intent is clear in urging GSA to study ways to improve the deployment of AEDs in federal buildings. While Congress gave GSA one year to comply with its directive regarding AEDs, we urge you to comply with this directive as soon as possible given the severity

of the need and the life-saving difference that AEDs can make. Additionally, we encourage you to prioritize not only AED procurement and deployment within GSA's building guidelines and procedures, but also awareness of and training as to their use, including through the development of emergency action plans. This will ensure that AEDs are not only present but can also appropriately and quickly be used in an emergency, which is vital to saving lives in sudden cardiac arrest events.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and urge you to take prompt action on this issue.

Sincerely,



Colin Z. Allred
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



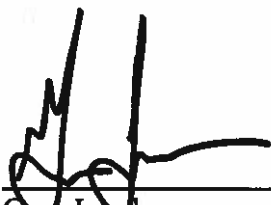
C. A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
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Thom Tillis
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Jim Tokuda
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Greg Landsman
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Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



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