



H.CON.RES. 393 – SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "NATIONAL SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS MONTH"

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Con.Res. 393 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Chip Pickering (R-MS) on July 22, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, but was never considered.

H.Con.Res. 393 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Con.Res. 393 resolves that Congress:

- Supports the goals and ideals of 'National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month';
- Supports efforts to educate people about sudden cardiac arrest and to raise awareness about the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, identifying warning signs, and the need to seek medical attention in a timely manner;
- Acknowledges the critical importance of sudden cardiac arrest awareness to improving national cardiovascular health; and
- Calls upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

BACKGROUND

According to the National Institutes of Health, arrhythmias are heart problems which cause abnormal heart rhythms. Arrhythmias may cause the heart to beat too fast, too slow, or to stop entirely. Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when an arrhythmia causes the heart to stop beating. Some of the many causes of cardiac arrest include coronary heart disease, heart attack, electrocution, or choking. Some instances of cardiac arrest have no known cause.

Without immediate medical attention, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation, sudden cardiac arrest will cause death within minutes. According to the Heart Rhythm Society, cardiac arrest takes the lives of more than 250,000 Americans each year, with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute giving the disease a mortality rate of approximately 95 percent.

[NIH – Cardiac Arrest](#)
[Heart Rhythm Society](#)
[National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Justin Hanson at 6-2302.