



INCREASE COMMUNITY ACCESS TO AEDS

THE ISSUE:

Providing communities with readily accessible automated external defibrillators (AEDs) combined with appropriate training can mean the difference between life and death for individuals experiencing sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) outside of a hospital setting. Unfortunately, not all schools have AEDs available nor provide adequate training to respond to cardiac emergencies. This legislation is particularly timely as recent media coverage of high-profile SCA events among professional athletes has highlighted the need for Congress to address this problem.

ACC'S POSITION:

Through legislation like the **Access to AEDs Act**, Congress can reduce SCA among young athletes and their communities. The inability of a school to purchase or maintain an AED should not be a barrier to the availability of this life saving tool. This legislation also ensures that schools will adhere to best practices by requiring any heart health screening programs for student athletes to be consistent with ACC and American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines.

ACC'S ASK:

Co-sponsor and support the **Access to AEDs Act of 2023** (H.R. 2370/S. 1024), introduced by Reps. Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick (D-FL) and Bill Posey (R-FL) in the U.S. House and Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) in the U.S. Senate.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 300,000 people experience SCA outside of a hospital setting. Those individuals face a 70-90% mortality rate.



The **Access to AEDs Act** is bipartisan and supported by a wide coalition of organizations ranging from medical societies to patient groups and professional sports leagues.



The **Access to AEDs Act** would establish a federal grant program for schools to receive funding to purchase and maintain AEDs, and to provide training on proper usage.



The **Access to AEDs Act** adheres to best practices by ensuring student heart health screening programs are developed in accordance with ACC/ AHA guidelines.



REDUCE UNNECESSARY AMPUTATIONS

THE ISSUE:

An estimated 20 million Americans suffer from peripheral artery disease (PAD), the narrowing of the peripheral arteries that carry blood from the heart to other parts of the body. Unfortunately, about 200,000 of these patients, disproportionately people of color, suffer avoidable amputations every year. The **Amputation Reduction and Compassion (ARC) Act** provides that PAD screening will be made available to at-risk beneficiaries within Medicare and Medicaid to reduce avoidable amputations. In addition, the **ARC Act** will increase awareness and education through a new U.S. Department of Health and Human Services PAD education program.

ACC'S POSITION:

Amputation can result in additional health concerns, reduced quality of life, and in some cases, life threatening conditions. Many PAD-related amputations could be avoided through early diagnosis and attention to the condition, allowing clinicians to pursue aggressive risk factor modification, supervised exercise programs and surveillance studies.

Your ACC played a key role in helping to craft this legislation by responding to requests for information, participating in briefings and taking part in the press conference celebrating the bill's introduction. This legislation marks a step forward in our efforts to reduce health disparities and achieve health equity for patients in need of cardiovascular care.

ACC'S ASK:

Co-sponsor and support the **ARC Act** (H.R. 4261), introduced by Reps. Donald Payne (D-NJ), Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ), Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), and Chris Smith (R-NJ).

KEY TAKEAWAYS



The **ARC Act** will reduce avoidable PAD-related amputations by improving access to screening and raising awareness of the condition.



The ACC has been involved in developing and crafting this legislation since 2022. ACC Vice President Cathleen Biga, MSN, RN, FACC, was invited to speak about this bill at its Capitol Hill introduction ceremony.



About 200,000 patients suffer avoidable PAD-related amputations every year.



PAD disproportionately impacts people of color and those in underserved communities.