December 18, 2017

The Honorable Frank Pallone
House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to offer our strong support for the Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Research, and Training in the Schools (HEARTS) Act of 2017 (H.R. 3880). We applaud your efforts in introducing this legislation to increase research and awareness of cardiomyopathy across the lifespan and to reduce the risk of sudden cardiac arrest.

Cardiomyopathy affects both children and adults and is a chronic and potentially life-threatening heart condition that affects how the heart pumps blood through the body. The disease presents differently in individuals, and it can be difficult to detect when there are no apparent symptoms. For those not diagnosed, the consequences can be devastating. Research has shown that cardiomyopathy is a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest.

All too often, we hear of an adult or child collapsing unexpectedly due to an undiagnosed heart condition. The Cardiomyopathy HEARTS Act will help educate affected individuals and their families, as well as school and health professionals about cardiomyopathy and encourage families to evaluate their family's cardiac history, check for cardiomyopathy symptoms, and seek medical screening if necessary.

Despite the severity of the cardiomyopathy, little is known about the prevalence, causes, and reasons for its variability. The Cardiomyopathy HEARTS Act will address this by requesting the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to evaluate current research initiatives on cardiomyopathy and direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to collect and analyze national data to identify the impact, prevalence, and natural history of cardiomyopathy.

This legislation will put the needed focus on a serious heart disease that affects thousands. Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue. We stand ready to work with you, your staff, and your colleagues to advance this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American College of Cardiology
American Heart Association
American Society of Echocardiography
American Society of Exercise Physiologists
Augustheart
Cardiac Electrophysiology Society

Chad Foundation for Athletes & Artists
Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta’s Project S.A.V.E.
Children’s Heart Foundation
Citizen CPR Foundation
Gregory W. Moyer Defibrillator Fund
Gwyneth's Gift Foundation
Heart Rhythm Society
Heartfelt Cardiac Projects
The Janet Fund
Matthew Krug Foundation
Max Schewitz Foundation
Mended Little Hearts
National Association of EMS Educators
National Association of School Nurses
National Athletic Trainers Association
Nick of Time Foundation
Parent Heart Watch
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Project ADAM
Sarcomeric Human Cardiomyopathy Registry (ShaRe)
Simons Fund
Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation