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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE CONGRESS

## House of Representatives

**Recognizing Dr. Terry Gordon as the 45<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award for his work as a champion of automated external defibrillators.**

*HON. BETTY SUTTON*  
*October 16, 2012*

**Ms. Sutton.** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary individual who has tirelessly advocated to save the lives of children and others by getting life-saving automated external defibrillators (AEDs) placed in schools across the nation.

Dr. Terry Gordon is the 45<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Bert A. Polsky Humanitarian Award given out each year by the Akron Community Foundation to an individual or couple who best exemplifies selfless dedication to humanitarian causes in Akron, Ohio.

A Cleveland Clinic trained cardiologist, Dr. Gordon practiced invasive cardiology at Akron General Medical Center for over 21 years prior to his retirement. In 2000, while serving as President of the Summit County American Heart Association, a 15 year old football player at Barberton High School by the name of Josh Miller collapsed on the field and suffered sudden cardiac arrest. There was no AED on site and, sadly, Josh died of sudden cardiac arrest. The tragic loss of this young man full of promise was devastating to not only Josh's parents and family, but to the entire community.

Upon learning of this tragic loss of life and realizing the school did not have an AED on site, Dr. Gordon began raising funds to place AEDs in every junior and high school, making Summit County, Ohio, the first county of its size to do so and earning him the National Physician of the Year award for 2002 from the American Heart Association. His efforts also resulted in AEDs placed in every police, highway patrol and sheriff's vehicle in Summit County.

Dr. Gordon continued his advocacy at the state level, and in 2005 helped procure \$2.5 million from the State of Ohio, which in partnership with the American Heart Association and Akron General Medical Center, placed over 2,200 AEDs in schools throughout Ohio. He later worked with the Ohio General Assembly to allocate an additional \$2.5 million needed to complete the task of placing 4,500 devices in Ohio schools.

In 2007, I was proud to partner with Dr. Gordon on this important mission and introduced the Josh Miller HEARTS Act. Named after the Barberton High School football player who we lost to sudden cardiac arrest, the bill establishes a grant program to get automated external defibrillators into elementary and secondary schools across the nation. The Act passed the U.S. House of Representatives in both the 110<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and is pending action in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

In addition to his work advocating for AEDs in schools, Dr. Gordon remains actively engaged in our community, serving on various volunteer boards. He was a founding member of Stewart's Caring Place, a facility of wellness for those with cancer and their loved ones. He has been a member of The Youth Motivational Task Force for many years, has been a long-standing board member of the American Heart Association and is co-host of 'Docs Who Rock', a fundraiser for the Summit County United Way. Dr. Gordon is also an accomplished author, whose work includes the book No Storm Lasts Forever.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the selfless dedicated service of Dr. Terry Gordon and in congratulating him on receiving the 45<sup>th</sup> Polsky Humanitarian Award.