41 percent of 8th grade students, 62 percent of 10th grade students, and 73 percent of 12th graders.

State officials, business leaders, parents and community leaders can also make a difference. When they come together to fight this public health crisis, it is possible to reduce the terrible toll underage drinking has on our youth. The We Don't Serve Teens Campaign will help us reach that goal.

From my personal experience in my own district, I can attest to how highly successful the program is in educating parents and their children about the dangers of underage drinking. Last fall I worked with the Century Council and the Federal Trade Commission to bring this important public safety campaign to Los Angeles during National We Don't Serve Teens Week.

The Wine and Spirits Wholesalers Association and the California Highway Patrol joined us in sending a strong message to retailers, parents and adults that providing alcohol to any person under the age of 21 is unsafe, irresponsible, and illegal.

I was privileged to host this important campaign in my district, and I am honored to support this resolution today.

I hope that passage of this resolution will encourage others to become more actively involved in the fight against underage drinking. By working together to reduce underage drinking, we will provide a safer and healthier future for our children.

I encourage my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H. Res. 1042 and to do what they can in their communities to get the message out.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, I would urge passage of this resolution relative to underage drinking, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1042, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 393) supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month''.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. Con. Res. 393

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest takes the lives of more than 250,000 people in the United States each year, according to the Heart Rhythm Society;

Whereas anyone can experience sudden cardiac arrest, including infants, high school athletes, and people in their 30s and 40s who have no sign of heart disease;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest is extremely deadly, with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute giving the disease a mortality rate of approximately 95 percent;

Whereas to have a chance of surviving an attack, the American Heart Association states that victims of sudden cardiac arrest must receive a lifesaving defibrillation within the first 4 to 6 minutes of an attack;

Whereas for every minute that passes without a shock from an automated external defibrillator, the chance of survival decreases by approximately 10 percent;

Whereas lifesaving treatments for sudden cardiac arrest are effective if administered in time;

Whereas according to joint research by the American College of Cardiology and the American Heart Association, implantable cardioverter defibrillators are 98 percent effective at protecting people at risk for sudden cardiac arrest;

Whereas according to the American Heart Association, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and early defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator more than double the chances that a victim will survive;

Whereas the Yale-New Haven Hospital and the New England Journal of Medicine state that women and African-Americans are at a higher risk than the general population for dying as a result of sudden cardiac arrest, yet this fact is not well known to people at risk;

Whereas there is a need for comprehensive educational efforts designed to increase awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and related therapies among medical professionals and the greater public in order to promote early detection and proper treatment of this disease and to improve quality of life; and

Whereas the Heart Rhythm Society and the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition are preparing related public awareness and education campaigns on sudden cardiac arrest to be held each year during the month of October: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month'';

(2) 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;

(3) acknowledges the critical importance of sudden cardiac arrest awareness to improving national cardiovascular health; and

(4) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 393, a resolution expressing support for the goals and ideals of National Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month.

While many of us are aware of the importance of maintaining a healthy diet in order to mitigate the risk of heart attacks, there is much less information concerning the risk of cardiac arrest. However, the dangers to the public are no less severe. It's estimated that more than 250,000 people die each year from sudden cardiac arrest.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart stops functioning properly, usually as a result of an irregular heart rhythm. Any type of heart disease can lead to cardiac arrest.

□ 2100

Often, though, two or more major coronary arteries are narrowed due to fatty buildups.

H. Con. Res. 393 recognizes October as an appropriate month to support National Sudden Cardiac Heart Awareness. This resolution would support efforts to educate the American public about cardiac arrest and raise awareness regarding prevention and warning signs.

It's especially important that warning signs are recognized immediately because death can occur in as little as 6 minutes after experiencing cardiac arrest. Moreover, women and African Americans need to make themselves particularly familiar with this health problem as they are at a higher risk than other populations.

I want to thank my colleague, Representative PICKERING, for his work in bringing this resolution to the floor. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H. Con. Res. 393.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I will yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 393, recognizing October as the National Sudden Cardiac Awareness Month.

Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the Nation's leading killers, claiming the lives of over a quarter million Americans a year. The most incidents of sudden cardiac arrest occur without any warning signs and can strike at any age, even in healthy infants, high school athletes, and adults with no prior signs of distress or heart disease.

Most victims of sudden cardiac arrest—95 percent—die because they are not able to receive a life-saving shock from an automated external defibrillator within 4 to 6 minutes before brain and permanent death start to occur.

Sudden cardiac arrest occurs when the heart stops working and no blood is

pumped to vital organs. The heart's electrical system malfunctions. And in fact, for those who can be identified to be at risk for SCA, an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator is very effective at preventing a deadly arrest.

This resolution will support continued efforts to raise awareness about the risk of sudden cardiac arrest, to improve the public's ability to identify warning signs and encourage individuals to seek medical attention in a timely manner.

I certainly would like to thank the Heart Rhythm Society and the 29 organizations that comprise the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Coalition for their support. I would also like to point out their ongoing efforts promoting public awareness and education campaigns that will be held each year during the month of October.

Certainly I also want to thank the sponsor of the resolution, Mr. CHIP PICKERING of Mississippi, for raising awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and improving national cardiovascular health.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would yield 2 minutes to the sponsor of the legislation, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 393 which would recognize October as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month, and I want to thank my colleague from New Jersey, our chairman of our Health Subcommittee, for recognizing me. I also want to thank the resolution's sponsor, CHIP PICKERING, and thank him for his leadership on this topic.

I have proudly served with Mr. PICKERING as cochair of the Heart and Stroke Coalition for the past 2 years. I have enjoyed working with him as well on the Stop Stroke Act, which we are so close to passing into law, and for his advocacy on behalf of these issues. He will sorely be missed when he retires this year from Congress.

Sudden cardiac arrest claims the life of over 300,000 people per year. It's known as SCA, and it can strike at any age in people who appear to be otherwise healthy. We all know the famous stories of young athletes mysteriously dying on the basketball court or the football field. But perhaps none of us know enough about how to prevent it from happening in the future in our families with our loved ones and in the future.

There are certain warning signs for sudden cardiac arrest which can be identified through screenings, and we hope that establishing a Sudden Cardiac Awareness Month will help more Americans learn what those warning signs are and to encourage more medical professionals to conduct proper screenings.

I'd also like to take this time to promote awareness about the greatest chance for survival after a sudden cardiac arrest: the automated external defibrillators, or AEDs. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have been proud of the efforts to increase the presence of AEDs on school campuses and other public buildings. Many of you are probably familiar with the placement of AEDs on every floor through the Capitol and our office buildings. They are so simple to use and are crucial to improving survival.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 393 and help improve awareness about sudden cardiac events and AEDs.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers. I would urge passage of this resolution with regard to sudden cardiac arrest.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 393.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

MRSA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 988) designating the month of March 2008 as ''MRSA Awareness Month,'' as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 988

Whereas Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) is a type of infection that is resistant to treatment with the usual antibiotics and is one of the most common pathogens that cause Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) in the United States and in many parts of the world;

Whereas a study led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in 2005 more than 94,000 invasive MRSA infections occurred in the United States and more than 18,500 of these infections resulted in death;

Whereas the percentage of Staphylococcus aureus infections in the United States that are attributable to MRSA has grown from 2 percent in 1974 to 63 percent in 2004;

Whereas the annual number of hospitalizations associated with MRSA infections, including both HAIs and community-based infections, more than tripled between 1999 and 2005, from 108,600 to 368,600;

Whereas approximately 85 percent of all invasive MRSA infections were associated with healthcare;

Whereas serious MRSA infections occur most frequently among individuals in hospitals and healthcare facilities, particularly the elderly, those undergoing dialysis, and those with surgical wounds;

Whereas individuals infected with MRSA are most likely to have longer and more expensive hospital stays, with an average cost of $35,000;

Whereas there has been an increase in reported community-acquired staph infection outbreaks, including antibiotic-resistant strains, in States such as Illinois, New York, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, the District of Columbia, and Alaska;

Whereas clusters of community-acquired MRSA infections have been reported since the late 1990s among competitive sports teams, correctional facilities, schools, workplaces, military facilities, and other community settings;

Whereas a person who is not infected with MRSA can be a vehicle for the transmission of infections through skin-to-skin contact; and

Whereas many instances of MRSA transmission can be prevented through the use of appropriate hygienic practices, such as hand washing and appropriate first aid for open wounds and active skin infections, are followed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the importance of reducing the transmission of infections in hospitals and ensuring appropriate use and utilization of antibiotics to meet patient and public health needs;

(2) recognizes the importance of operational research for finding the best ways of preventing hospital- and community-acquired Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and developing new antibiotics for improving care for MRSA patients;

(3) recognizes the importance of raising awareness of MRSA and methods of preventing MRSA infections; and

(4) supports the work of advocates, healthcare practitioners, and science-based experts in educating, supporting, and providing hope for individuals and their families affected by community and healthcare associated infections.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening in support of H. Res. 988 designating the month of March 2008 as MRSA Awareness Month.

MRSA is a type of infection that is resistant to treatment with regular antibiotics. While healthy individuals can acquire MRSA as well, it is most likely to occur among parts of our population least equipped to deal with its