



State of Illinois  
OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

**For Immediate Release  
Sept. 27, 2007**

**For more information,  
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Dear Editor,

Mike Culhane owes his life to an automated external defibrillator (AED) – and to an Illinois law that made sure the lifesaving device was there when he suffered a near-fatal heart attack two weeks ago.

Mike, a financial broker from Hainesville, was in the Grayslake Central High School gym on Sunday, Sept. 16, waiting to play a pick-up game of basketball, when he was stricken by sudden cardiac arrest. Luckily for Mike, two men playing basketball nearby were trained in CPR and immediately began resuscitating him, while a third retrieved the gym's AED. The trio of heroes then used the lifesaving equipment to keep Mike's heart beating until rescue personnel arrived.

Every two minutes, someone in our country experiences sudden cardiac arrest. By requiring schools, park districts and municipalities to equip their gyms and athletic fields with AEDs, Illinois' Colleen O'Sullivan law is helping to save the lives of many people like Mike Culhane.

In 2004, I helped pass the Colleen O'Sullivan law, named after a young staff attorney for the Illinois House of Representatives who died of sudden cardiac arrest while exercising at her health club. A year later, we created the State of Illinois' Heartsaver AED Trust Fund to offer 50% matching grants to help public schools and park districts purchase these lifesaving devices.

So it seems shortsighted – even heartless – that the state's anticipated \$100,000 FY2008 contribution to the AED Heartsaver Trust Fund would be zeroed out under Governor Blagojevich's veto of the FY2008 state budget passed by the General Assembly.

The Colleen O'Sullivan law and the AED Heartsaver Trust Fund represent public health at its very best. So I sincerely urge the General Assembly to take action this week to override the Governor's veto and restore these funds, to help make sure AEDs are ready and available whenever someone in Illinois needs them.

For more information about AEDs and the Heartsaver AED Fund, please visit [www.KeepIllinoisHealthy.org](http://www.KeepIllinoisHealthy.org).

Sincerely,

Pat Quinn  
Lt. Governor