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January 25, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTEGRATED HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION, A COLLABORATION OF DIVERSE HEALTHCARE STAKEHOLDERS IN CALIFORNIA, SUPPORTS GOVERNOR'S HEALTH REFORM PROPOSAL

OAKLAND, Calif. January 25, 2007 -- The Integrated Healthcare Association (IHA) applauds Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's leadership in proposing a health reform plan that is bold, comprehensive, and thoughtful. IHA is a not-for-profit statewide healthcare leadership group that represents diverse interests and is composed of key California stakeholders including health plans, physician groups, hospitals, and healthcare systems, in addition to purchaser, pharmaceutical, technology, consumer, and academic representatives. IHA is not just one more special interest group; rather, it is an organization that is dedicated to improving the performance and success of healthcare in California. By engaging the various sectors of healthcare delivery in dialogue and collective action, IHA seeks to promote breakthrough quality improvement in healthcare for all Californians through innovation and collaboration.

IHA supports the plan's three central goals – prevention and health promotion, coverage for all Californians, and affordability and cost containment – and acknowledges and praises the efforts of the governor's health policy team to engage the numerous and varied California health care stakeholders in the process of developing the proposal. IHA, which represents many of these stakeholders, and has facilitated input with members of the governor's team to exchange information and ideas, was pleased to see that a number of its objectives were incorporated in the governor's proposal. In particular, we appreciate that the proposal calls for partnering with private and public sector purchasers to promote the measurement and reporting of provider performance and the aggregation of data for quality improvement, pay for performance, and consumer choice, and for reducing regulatory barriers to more efficient health care delivery.

Additionally, the plan's aims to promote prevention, reduce obesity, encourage the adoption of health information technology, and increase health care quality, efficiency, and affordability are all consistent with IHA's recommendations. These goals are best achieved through the further development of integrated healthcare, so IHA encourages the Governor's policy team to consider the importance of delivering health care through the established physician groups in California who provide the coordinated care delivery system capable of, and essential to, achieving the programs goals.

The goals of the Governors proposal will best be achieved through a process of open and honest dialogue and compromise. While individual IHA stakeholders may have objections to and cannot endorse certain elements of the plan and have legitimate concerns about the financing and long-term sustainability of the plan, IHA as an organization remains committed to working with the governor's team to realize the plan's fundamental aims. We stand ready to continue the dialogue, stay actively involved, and help the governor achieve his broad health care objectives.

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