



For immediate release

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Gloria Austin, Chief Executive Officer of Brown & Toland and former chair of the California Association of Physician Groups, Praises Governor's Healthcare Reform Plan

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., January 9, 2007....Speaking January 8th at the launch of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's new healthcare reform plan, Gloria Austin, Brown & Toland's Chief Executive Officer, praised the governor's attempt at health care reform and noted that organized physician groups such as Brown & Toland have demonstrated the ability to keep health care premiums affordable for the past 10 years and offer unique value to the health care delivery system in California.

Speaking on behalf of both Brown & Toland and the California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG), which represents more than 150 physician groups (59,000 physicians) serving more than 16 million patients in California, Austin noted that both health care consumers and payors benefit from organized physician groups and networks.

"The organized physician groups and networks in California have set the standard for affordability, prevention and quality metrics," said Austin, who served as chair of CAPG in 2005. "Additionally, California physician groups are actively employing technology that includes electronic medical records, e-prescribing and electronic disease registries and support the Governor's Executive Order to create a fully interoperable system of electronic health records for all Californians within 10 years."

The governor's sweeping health care reform plan calls for providing medical insurance to all Californians and would spread the cost of the program, estimated at \$12 billion, among employers, individuals, insurers, the government, and healthcare providers. A select group of healthcare leaders and payors from throughout the state presented at the event.

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“We applaud Governor Schwarzenegger’s leadership toward getting uninsured Californians into a health care program, including the almost 800,000 children who currently have no health care coverage,” said Austin. “Our physician groups have a track record of helping to keep healthcare affordable, to take on unique initiatives including the implementation of healthcare technology and leading the industry in transparency and the availability of quality data. Brown & Toland, the California Association of Physician Groups and its 150 member physician groups look forward to working with you and the legislature in this important year of healthcare reform.”