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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HWTF Honors Community Champions with
2005 *Distinguished Service Award in Preventive Health***

Rep. Verla Insko recognized as *Legislator of the Year*

RALEIGH, NC – Proven and innovative approaches make preventive health a priority. It is this kind of commitment that has earned state Rep. Verla Insko, who represents the 56th District in Orange County, the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund's (HWTF) inaugural *Distinguished Service Award in Preventive Health*. Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, who serves as HWTF chair, presented Rep. Insko with the *Legislator of the Year* award on Dec. 6 at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

"Verla has consistently committed herself to ensuring that all North Carolina residents – young and old – have the opportunity to live healthy lives," said Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue. "Her vision and leadership provides the road map that others can follow in years to come."

The new *Distinguished Service in Preventive Health Awards* were created to recognize North Carolina's top community leaders who have demonstrated a tireless commitment to the health and well-being of North Carolina's residents. These recipients represent various professions including education, government, medicine, business and philanthropy. This year, 11 individuals from across NC received this high honor from Lt. Gov. Perdue and the HWTF.

As one of three co-chairs of HWTF's *Fit Families NC: A Study Committee for Childhood Overweight/Obesity*, Rep. Insko introduced and was instrumental in shepherding HB 855, "Child Nutrition Standards," which established statewide nutrition standards for meals served in North Carolina schools, including a la carte food and beverages, and the after school snack program.

ABOUT THE NC HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRUST FUND:

The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund makes North Carolina stronger, both physically and economically, by funding programs that promote preventive health. Created by the General Assembly in 2000 to allocate a portion of North Carolina's share of the national tobacco settlement, HWTF invests in programs and partnerships related to teen tobacco use, prescription drugs, childhood obesity and health disparities. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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