

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 20, 2006

**HWTF CHAIR LT. GOV. BEV PERDUE TO LEAD PANEL AT DUKE
UNIVERSITY'S HEALTH DISPARITIES SUMMIT**

NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund (HWTF) Chair Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue will join health care professionals and state leaders in a summit designed to address the issue of health disparities in North Carolina. The two-day summit, hosted by Duke University Health System, will emphasize the need for preventive healthcare and eliminating healthcare gaps among minority and low income groups around the state.

"Real People, Real Choices", which will be held April 23-24, will include keynote addresses and panel discussions among state and local leaders to explore public and private organizations working together to address this growing issue. HWTF is one of the summit's community partners.

Lt. Gov. Perdue will lead the "Eliminating Health Disparities: A Call to Action" panel of hospital and health system administrators on April 24. HWTF Commissioner Mary Ann Black, Duke University's Associate Vice President for Community Relations, will welcome the participants to the summit while commissioners Bill Atkinson, President and CEO of WakeMed Health and Hospitals and Bill Roper, Dean of the UNC School of Medicine, will be among the featured panelists.

Another highlight of the summit will be the theatre production of "Heart to Heart: Ain't Your Life Worth Saving?" a play about disparities and heart disease among African-American women and their families on Sunday at 7 p.m.

Last year, HWTF announced its new initiative aimed at reducing health disparities in North Carolina. As part of this initiative, HWTF commissioners will award \$8.9 million in grant funding to statewide organizations on May 1.

For a detailed schedule of events, please visit: http://dukehealth1.org/community_relations/events.asp

WHO: HWTF Chair Lt. Gov. Bev Perdue, HWTF Commissioners Mary Ann Black, Duke University's Associate Vice President for Community Relations; Bill Atkinson, President and CEO of WakeMed Health Hospitals; and Bill Roper, Dean of the UNC School of Medicine and Vice Chancellor & CEO of the UNC Health Care System.

WHAT: "Real People, Real Issues" North Carolina Summit on Health Disparities.

WHEN: Mon. April 24. **Lt. Gov. Perdue leads "Eliminating Health Disparities: A Call to Action" panel at 1:00 p.m.**

WHERE: The Washington Duke Inn, Duke University Campus

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 has invested \$127 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$78 million to fund a prescription drug assistance program. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com

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