

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Announces New Chair

Raleigh, NC – At the July 16 meeting of the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission (HWTF), Dr. Chuck Willson was unanimously elected as its new Chair. Governor Bev Perdue held the position of Chair since the HWTF Commission's inception in 2001. Dr. Willson has also served on the HWTF Commission since 2001, where he has chaired the Research, Education and Prevention Task Force and remains a member of the Obesity and Wellness Task Force.

“Dr. Chuck Willson has been a committed and highly valued member of the Commission and a passionate advocate for the health of North Carolina's citizens,” said Governor Bev Perdue, former Commission Chair. “I am confident that the Commission will continue its critical mission with the benefit of his exceptional leadership.”

A pediatric physician and dedicated child advocate, Dr. Willson joined the faculty at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University after 19 years in private practice. He is a Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and serves as co-Director for the Center for Children with Complex and Chronic Conditions.

Dr. Willson has served on the Executive Committee of the NC Pediatric Society since 1986. A former president of the North Carolina Medical Society, he is currently a member of the NC American Medical Association (AMA) delegation. Last year, the UNC-CH Medical Alumni Association awarded Dr. Willson a distinguished service award.

Dr. Willson has been actively involved in the development of a unique, physician-led primary care case management model for NC Medicaid patients. He held the position of Medical Director for the Community Care Plan of Eastern Carolina for 12 years, serving over 100,000 patients in 27 counties across eastern NC.

At the same Commission meeting, Robert Zaytoun was re-appointed as Vice Chair of the HWTF Commission, a position he has held since the Commission was formed. Zaytoun has also served on the Commission since 2001 and continues to lead the Operations and Administration Committee.

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 \$199 million to support preventive health initiatives and \$102 million to fund prescription drug assistance programs. For more information, please visit www.HealthWellNC.com.

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