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**State Senator Tim Golden Receives a
Legislative Leadership Award from Georgia Hospital Association**
*--Award recognizes legislator for commitment to improving health care policy,
leadership on creating awareness of hospital needs--*

ATLANTA, Oct. 4, 2004 – The Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) named State Senator Tim Golden (D-Valdosta) a recipient of the Legislative Leadership Award. The award is presented to those state lawmakers whose leadership promotes sound health care public policy that benefits patients, hospitals and communities.

“Senator Golden’s leadership to improve health care policy is deeply appreciated and understood by the hospital community,” said GHA President Joseph A. Parker. “The Legislative Leadership Award demonstrates our gratitude to the senator for his efforts in helping create inroads toward public understanding and awareness of hospital needs that are vital to the stability of our health care system.”

Senator Tim Golden has served in the Georgia General Assembly since 1991 and has promoted health care issues including tort reform, payment policies for Medicaid and PeachCare programs and policies to address the uninsured. Additionally, he has served as an advocate to address the health care workforce shortage, particularly in the rural parts of the state.

Georgia hospitals continue to be under enormous financial pressure. Challenges such as annual budget-cutting measures at the state and federal levels plague the system. Add to this the unbalanced judicial system in Georgia that is forcing physicians to limit or close their practices and eliminating many valuable health care services at Georgia hospitals because of this medical liability crisis.

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“With health care costs in Georgia rapidly escalating, reforms are needed to make high-quality, affordable health care more widely available,” continued Parker. “We truly appreciate legislative leaders like Senator Golden, who consistently dedicate their time to work toward meaningful reforms in the Georgia General Assembly to help patients and citizens in our communities across the state receive access to quality health care.”

Senator Golden said, “I appreciate the support of the Georgia Hospital Association as I seek another term in the Senate. I have enjoyed working with the GHA as well as the patient care providers in my district on many issues of mutual interest and concern in the Georgia General Assembly and remain committed to improving and strengthening our health care system in Georgia.”

Senator Golden is a fourteen year veteran of the General Assembly. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Budgetary Responsibility Oversight Committee, Insurance & Labor and Higher Education Committees.

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