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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

The legislature adjourned the 2005-2006 legislative session on August 31, 2006. Governor Schwarzenegger discharged his gubernatorial responsibility by signing, vetoing, or allowing to become law without his signature all bills sent to him during the final weeks of the session by the September 30, 2006 deadline.

In 2006, the legislature approved and sent 1,172 bills to the Governor. Of these, the Governor signed 910 (77.6%) and vetoed 262 (22.3%). The legislature will reconvene for the 2007-2008 legislative session on December 4. This will be a brief organizational session, with the session beginning in earnest in early January 2007.

The election for California Governor will be held on November 7, 2006. All polls indicate at this time that Governor Schwarzenegger is leading his opponent, democrat State Treasurer Phil Angelides by a substantial margin and, barring unforeseen circumstances, is likely to be re-elected.

The Governor has declared that, if re-elected, he will make healthcare the focal point of his agenda in 2007 and to that end has hired and given substantial authority to three leading individuals with a bipartisan and statewide reputation for healthcare policymaking in California:

- John Ramey, former Executive Director of the Major Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB);
- Richard Figueroa, former Deputy Legislative Secretary to Governor Gray Davis and former advisor to Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi;
- Herb Schultz, former Chief Deputy to the Department of Managed Health Care.

There is no requested action contained within this update; it is informational. Please contact me with any questions or comments.