

SC FQHCs Honor Sen. Leatherman and Rep. Ott

For immediate release

February 11, 2010 (Columbia, SC) – On behalf of its membership, all 19 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) in the state, the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA) honored Senator Hugh K. Leatherman (R-Dist. 31) and Representative Harry L. Ott, Jr. (D-Dist. 93) on January 20, 2010 during its 5th Annual State Policy and Issues Forum at the Columbia Downtown Marriott. Sen. Leatherman and Rep. Ott received the Community Health Center Champion award for their unwavering commitment to ensuring the ability of FQHCs to meet the primary health care needs of the medically underserved in South Carolina. With their continued support, FQHCs provided a medical home to nearly 300,000 patients at 134 service delivery sites located in 40 out of 46 counties in SC in 2008 (2009 data will be available in March, 2009).



The Annual State Policy and Issues Forum is the SCPHCA’s premier event for grassroots legislative advocacy efforts. The Forum affords an opportunity for FQHC board members, management, and other staff to assume the role of advocates in the legislative process, presenting a unified voice with representatives from across the state. Additionally, the event provides a way to raise public awareness by educating both public and private entities as to the needs and progress made in addressing health care access for South Carolina’s most vulnerable populations. The day and a half Forum also provides advocates with information about pending and enacted legislation along with statewide and federal health care policies and local health care coverage initiatives from distinguished guest speakers—all of which are connected to how the bills/legislations and policies may affect the delivery of care by FQHCs in SC. Lastly, the Forum affords participants the opportunity to visit their legislators at the Statehouse and to share with them the SCPHCA’s legislative priorities for the year.



The SCPHCA serves as the coordinating structure for the state’s FQHCs and is committed to fulfilling the mission of improving access to primary and preventive health care for all in South Carolina. “South

Carolina continues to face significant challenges in improving the health status of disenfranchised and uninsured South Carolinians,” says Lathran J. Woodard, SCPHCA CEO. “We must offer proven solutions to these challenges to our lawmakers and show them how FQHCs are the backbone of health care reform in South Carolina.”

For more information, contact Carlo J. Victoriano at 803-788-2778 or carlov@scphca.org.