



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS

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PHCA Praises PHEAA and Rendell Administration for Initiative Addressing Shortage of Nurse Educators

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) today praised the announcement from Governor Rendell, legislative leaders and the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) that a new higher education funding initiative has been launched to provide \$55 million in additional grant aid to Pennsylvania students during the 2005-06 academic year.

“Governor Rendell correctly noted that PHEAA is one of the most successful student loan organizations in the country, and its strong performance means more Pennsylvanians can gain access to college grants,” stated Alan G. Rosenbloom, President and CEO of PHCA. “We are especially pleased this higher education gift includes a \$40 million four year program to address the shortage of nurse educators in the Commonwealth.”

PHCA has publicly supported PHEAA’s effort to forgive a portion of a nursing student’s loan principal, in exchange for agreeing to work as a nurse in areas with a major caregiver shortage. While this effort is aimed primarily at helping hospitals, Rosenbloom stated last year there is also a severe shortage of licensed nurses in long term care facilities throughout Pennsylvania.

“Licensed nurses are vital to the well being of patients and to the overall strength of Pennsylvania’s nursing infrastructure,” concluded Rosenbloom. “Addressing the shortage of nurse educators coupled with the loan forgiveness program will ultimately help enhance the quality of seniors’ care.

As a constant and growing resource for the Commonwealth, PHEAA earns revenue from its business operations to pay for administrative costs and to self-fund student aid programs and services for Pennsylvania. Through PHEAA’s Higher Education Gifts Initiative and other programs and services, PHEAA expects to provide the Commonwealth with more than \$1 billion in benefits at no cost to taxpayers over the next five years.

PHCA is a statewide membership services organization representing approximately 300 long-term care and senior service providers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information about PHCA is available by calling 717-221-1800 or visiting www.phca.org.

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