DATE: February 20, 2009

TO: AHA VoterVOICE Contacts

FROM: Bo Ryall, Executive Vice President

SUBJECT: 87TH Arkansas General Assembly

We have three bills being considered this week that would make the theme “Public Health and Safety Week” for the legislature. Senate Bill 315 is the enabling legislation needed to implement the statewide trauma system. This legislation will be considered on Wednesday, February 25th in the Senate Public Health Committee. Senator Tracy Steele, the sponsor of the legislation, will be explaining to the senators the process for designating trauma centers and how the funding will flow to hospitals.

Senate Bill 78 and Senate Bill 309 are the seat belt and the graduated driver license legislation and they will be considered in House Public Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 24th. Senate Bill 78 allows law enforcement officers to stop and ticket someone when they see a violation of the seat belt law. The goal of the legislation is to increase awareness of the lives that can be saved by wearing your seat belt. In Arkansas, nearly 7 out of every 10 persons killed in a motor vehicle crash were unrestrained.

Senate Bill 309 proposes to have different levels of licenses for teen drivers with restrictions at each level. The goal of this legislation is to lessen the distractions for teen drivers and in effect save lives of these new teen drivers. Between the years 1999-2005, 632 Arkansas teenagers were killed as a result of motor vehicle crashes.

If your state representative is a member of the House Public Transportation Committee, please call 501-682-6211, and ask for their support on Senate Bills 78 and 309. Please find the list of members below.

House Public Transportation Committee

Bill Sample, Chair (R), Hot Springs Village
Otis Davis, Vice Chair (D), Earle
Below, please find a summary of legislation of interest to all of us.

Thank you for your help. If you have any questions regarding the sign-up process or VoterVOICE, please contact Amber Estrada at aestrada@arkhospitals.org.

To use the VoterVOICE system for contacting public officials, go to the AHA Web site at www.arkhospitals.org and go to Legislative/Regulatory and click on VoterVOICE.

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**House Bill 1003 by Representative Brian King**- Authorizes physicians and nurses currently licensed by the State Medical Board to maintain red rotating or flashing emergency lights on a vehicle for use when responding to an emergency. Do Pass in House State Agencies Committee

**House Bill 1022 by Representative Pennartz and Senator Steele**- Increases the maximum loan to each recipient from the Nursing Student Loan Program from $6000 to $20,000; requires the recipient to practice or teach nursing in Arkansas in lieu of repayment; and authorizes the board to hire a program administrator. ACT 9

**House Bill 1093 by Representative Sample**- Requires government agencies, schools, other organizations and employers to issue their i.d. documents only to legal resident; prohibits illegal aliens from scholarships and in-state tuition; creates a Class D felony for harboring an illegal alien. House Judiciary Committee
**House Bill 1108 by Representative L. Smith** - Prohibits physicians from referring patients to medical imaging facilities in which the physician or the physician's immediate family has a financial interest; provides exemptions for ancillary services and tests. House Public Health Committee

**House Bill 1113 by Representative Creekmore and Senator Bledsoe** - Makes performing a partial-birth abortion a Class D felony; increases Medical Board civil fines from $10,000 to $25,000 first violation, higher for subsequent; allows civil actions for $50,000 in exemplary damages and triple actual damages. Passed House and Senate and sent to the Governor.

**House Bill 1134 by Representative Hall** - To eliminate the mandated collaborative practice agreement between advanced practice nurses and physicians for prescriptive authority and to designate eligible advanced practice nurses as licensed independent practitioners. (incomplete bill) House Public Health Committee

**House Bill 1204 by Representative Reep and Senator Steele** - Levies an additional tax on cigarettes of $28 per thousand; levies an additional tax on other tobacco products and soft snuff of $19 percent of manufacturer's selling price. ACT 180

**House Bill 1216 by Representative Shelby** - Requires the State Medical Board and the State Board of Nursing to develop a joining application for collaborative agreements between physicians and advanced practice nurses. House Public Health Committee

**House Bill 1232 by Representative Overbey and Senator Horn** - Provides long-term care quality assurance committee members immunity from civil action for acts taken within the scope of the committee without malice or fraud; provides that committee proceedings are confidential. Passed House and Senate and sent to the Governor.

**House Bill 1238 by Representative Garner and Senator G. Baker** - Creates the Trauma System Trust Fund; authorizes the Health Department to make rules for allocation of the funds; and provides funding of the Trust Fund by increasing various fines and earmarking 12% of premium taxes collected. House Public Health Committee

**House Bill 1253 by Representative Shelby** - Requires booster immunizations for children entering the seventh grade for diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis. House Education Committee

**House Bill 1254 by Representative J. Woods** - Provides an income tax credit to taxpayers donating postnatal tissue and fluid to the Newborn Umbilical Cord Blood Bank. House Revenue and Tax Committee

**House Bill 1258 by Joint Budget Committee** - Appropriates funds to the Insurance Department for 2009-10 operations. ACT 86
House Bill 1281 by Representative Carter - To require persons receiving benefits through the Department of Human Services to undergo drug testing on a random selection basis. (incomplete bill) House Public Health Committee

House Bill 1288 by Joint Budget Committee - Appropriates funds to the Department of Health for 2009-10 operations. Joint Budget Committee

House Bill 1407 by Representative Greenburg - Allows insurers to offer health care coverage insurance without regard for state-mandated benefits. House Insurance and Commerce Committee

House Bill 1411 by Representative Shelby and Senator Steele - Authorizes the Department of Health to grant funds to emergency medical care and ambulance providers, trauma rehabilitation services, and to hospitals to assist qualification as trauma centers; more. (Same as SB 315) House Public Health Committee

House Bill 1419 by Representative Wells - Prohibits nursing home employees from tampering with, disabling, or destroying a smoke alarm and providing that only a firefighter may silence the alarm; creating fines for noncompliance. House Public Health Committee

House Bill 1481 by Representative Shelby - Increases the maximum age of operators and passengers of motorcycles that must wear protective headgear from 21 to 25 years of age. House Public Transportation Committee

House Bill 1546 by Representative Shelby - Decreases from 180 to 45 days the time period within which health care insurers must make a decision on applications from physicians licensed under the Medical Practices Act for participation or renewal in the insurers plan. House Public Health Committee

Senate Bill 10 by Senator Altes - Provides that any tax, fee, or other item levied and collected for deposit into a special fund or designated as special revenue shall be considered as general revenues. Senate Revenue and Tax Committee

Senate Bill 23 by Senator Altes - Creates the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Act, requiring the Department of Health to establish an electronic program for monitoring the prescribing and dispensing of all Schedule II and Schedule III narcotics. Senate Public Health Committee

Senate Bill 29 by Senator Hendren - Requires motorcycle operators and passengers to wear helmets unless they are covered by a health insurance plan that would pay expenses incurred as a result of an accident; provides for the issue of decals to drivers that prove coverage. Senate Transportation Committee

Senate Bill 78 by Senator Wilkins and Representative Allen - To improve the safety of motorists on highways and roads in the state of Arkansas by making the mandatory seat
belt law a primary law for enforcement purposes. Passed Senate and referred to House Transportation Committee

**Senate Bill 79 by Senator Johnson-** Provides for regulation by the State Medical Board of radiologist assistants, radiology practitioner assistants, and nuclear medicine advanced associates. Received Do Pass Senate State Agencies Committee

**Senate Bill 143 by Senator Broadway-** Provides for licensure of emergency medical services personnel, rather than certification; changes various references to emergency medical technicians in the Arkansas Code to "emergency medical services personnel." Senate Public Health Committee

**Senate Bill 216 by Senator Altes and Representative Glidewell-** Makes persons receiving certain public assistance subject to drug testing on a random selection basis, with individuals failing a drug test to complete a one-year drug treatment program or lose the assistance benefits. Senate Public Health Committee

**Senate Bill 239 by Senator Bledsoe-** Authorizes physicians to delegate to qualified employees under the physician's supervision the performance of tasks that do not require substantial specialized knowledge as determined by the State Medical Board. Senate Public Health Committee

**Senate Bill 309 by Senator J. Jeffress and Representative Shelby-** Prohibits persons with a learner's license or an intermediate driver's license from using a cellular phone or other interactive wireless communication devices while operating a vehicle, and other restrictions. Passed Senate and referred to House Transportation Committee

**Senate Bill 315 by Senator Steele-** Authorizes the Department of Health to grant funds to emergency medical care providers, ambulance providers, trauma rehabilitation service, and to hospitals to assist qualification as trauma centers; to create a communication network; more. Senate Public Health Committee

**Senate Bill 354 by Senator Laverty and Representative Saunders-** Levies a provider fee on intermediate care facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities of 5.5 percent of the aggregate annual gross receipts of each facility divided by twelve. Senate Public Health Committee

**Senate Bill 356 by Senator Broadway-** Adjusts the provision requiring ambulance operators to consider service area restrictions in relation to the patient's choice of care facility. Senate Public Health Committee