

For Immediate Release

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Longtime Health Care Leader Gary Weeks Announces Retirement

Career spanned private and public advocacy in Oregon and Washington

Gary Weeks, CEO of the Washington Health Care Association announced his retirement on Monday. Weeks, who took the helm of the association in October 2006, plans to leave the position in September 2010.

"It's been a challenging and rewarding four years and I will miss my colleagues in the effort to protect seniors and the vulnerable," said Weeks. "An aging population with more acute, long term care needs will need strong, sustained voices at the state and federal levels, and I look forward to helping WHCA leaders and staff carry on this important work."

Under his leadership, WHCA has enjoyed a growth in membership and active involvement in the Association, according to Tim Lehner, WHCA Board President.

"The Board of Directors and I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for Gary's leadership during a critical time for our industry," said Lehner. "Under Gary's leadership, we've seen the Association membership grow, and have enjoyed an expansion of Association programs and activities."

"The national recession and a deficit state budget position have created a number of challenges for the Association's members, and we appreciate Gary's diligent efforts to educate the legislature and general public about the importance of quality long-term care for our state's most vulnerable citizens," said Lehner. "He's done a wonderful job in credibly and compassionately representing long-term care providers, residents and employees."

Prior to his tenure at WHCA, Weeks enjoyed a 35-year career in public service, including a stint as the head of the state Department of Labor and Industries under the Gregoire administration. Weeks was appointed L&I director in April 2005, coming from Oregon, where he was director of the Oregon Department of Human Services. Before that, he was director of Government Operations. He has worked under five governors in Oregon and Washington.

Located in Tumwater, Washington, the Washington Health Care Association (WHCA) is a statewide non-profit association representing licensed boarding homes, skilled nursing facilities and related business professionals. WHCA was established to elevate the standards and delivery of long-term care services to the aging and frail citizens residing in Washington long-term care facilities. Over 400 nursing homes and assisted living providers enjoy membership in the association.

A search committee has been formed to identify the Association's next leader. For more information about the association, and to review the CEO job posting go to www.whca.org.