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GEORGIA PHYSICIANS APPLAUD “SUPER SPEEDER” LAW AS GOOD STEP

ATLANTA – M. Todd Williamson, M.D., the president of the Medical Association of Georgia, says that the state’s trauma care system will take an important step when Gov. Sonny Perdue signs H.B. 160 into law at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta at Scottish Rite – a move that’s expected to raise \$23 million for trauma care in its first year.

Rep. Jim Cole’s (R-Forsyth) “super speeder” bill will establish an additional fine of \$200 for drivers who exceed 85 miles per hour on any road or highway or 75 miles per hour on any two-lane road or highway.

“Some 700 Georgians lose their life each year because of the state’s inadequate trauma system,” says Dr. Williamson, who is expected to be on hand when Gov. Perdue signs the bill into law. “The problem is especially acute in rural parts of Georgia that don’t have access to trauma care centers, where minutes carry a higher-than-usual premium in the trauma care world.”

Dr. Williamson says that, “In those areas where a trauma system is already in place, Georgia’s capabilities are on par with the rest of the country. The challenge is to extend that level of care to the entire state.”

While Dr. Williamson applauds state leaders for passing H.B. 160, he stresses it’s going to take far more resources to elevate Georgia’s trauma system to the national average. “We need to dedicate \$100 million or more per year to fund Georgia’s trauma system,” he says.

“Research shows there’s widespread public support for a statewide trauma system in Georgia,” Dr. Williamson concludes. “The people who live here understand that this affects their quality of life, and they say they’re prepared to pay for it.”

With more than 6,600 members, the Medical Association of Georgia is the leading voice for physicians in Georgia.

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