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FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1884

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 11, 2007

Health/Community Item

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**FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS RICHARDSON WITH SERVICE AWARD**

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Dental Association (FDA) today presented Rep. Curtis Richardson, D-Tallahassee, with the 2007 FDA *Special Recognition Award*. The award recognizes Rep. Richardson’s dedication to providing access to dental care in the Big Bend’s underserved communities.

“I am honored to be recognized by the FDA and Leon County Dental Association (LCDA) for my work in the legislature on behalf of the children and families in our area and throughout the state. I look forward to continuing to work with this organization to promote oral health and ensure access to proper dental care for Florida’s citizens,” Rep. Richardson said.

The award was presented at a LCDA meeting by Dr. Susanne Lumpp, LCDA president. The award acknowledges Representative Richardson’s efforts to enhance availability of dental care to Medicaid patients by supporting and working for a Medicaid fee increase. In addition, the award shows appreciation for his lobbying toward funding a \$700,000 Florida Dental Student Loan Forgiveness program.

“We are very appreciative of the work Rep. Richardson has done to improve dental access in the Big Bend,” Dr. Lumpp said. “His leadership in advocating for underserved communities truly shows how much he cares for Florida’s residents.”

The FDA is a Tallahassee-based, statewide, professional association representing member-dentists in Florida. Founded in 1884 by 12 dentists, the FDA now has almost 7,000 members, representing about 70 percent of all Florida-licensed dentists. The FDA maintains three offices in Tallahassee and has 60 employees. In addition, the organization has six regional component dental associations and 35 local affiliate associations. A constituent society of the ADA, the FDA’s mission is to improve the oral health

of Florida residents through high practice standards, continuous professional education, public advocacy and improving the practice environment.

For information on about the FDA, visit www.floridadental.org.

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