



Florida House of Representatives
Kevin C. Ambler
Representative, District 47

District Office
3820 Northdale Boulevard, Suite 301-A
Tampa, Florida 33624
(813) 558-1333

CONTACT: AMBER SMITH
PHONE: (813) 558-1333

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2009

Representative Kevin Ambler Receives the Safety Net Hospital Alliance Hero Award

TAMPA, FL –Representative Kevin Ambler (R-Lutz) has received the 2009 Safety Net Hospital Alliance Hero Award, an honor that is given to one Legislator each year. The Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida advocates on behalf of Florida's 14 safety net systems in an effort to continue their mission of providing quality health care throughout Florida. Alliance member hospitals, many of which have been recognized among America's best, include Tampa General Hospital, Jackson Memorial Health System, Shands Health System, Orlando Regional, Broward Health, Miami Children's Hospital and All Children's Hospital.

The "Hero Award" specifically recognized Representative Ambler's leadership and devotion to Florida's health care system and his commitment to assuring access to care for all Floridians. "I am truly honored to receive this award, but I must share it with my fellow committee members and staff who worked tirelessly with me on this issue," said Representative Ambler. "I am deeply gratified that, despite the difficult economic circumstances confronting our state and the historic budget deficit, we were still able to succeed in protecting our Safety Net Hospitals, thus protecting the health of our most vulnerable citizens."

As House Health Care Appropriations Chairman, Ambler was given the unique opportunity to work closely with the various members of the Safety Net Alliance to protect their funding formula for the distribution of state and federal dollars that would compensate them for the disproportionate share of charity care that they provide to indigent and uninsured Floridians.

"Representative Ambler's experience, intelligence and integrity were key in navigating the perfect storm of an economic crisis and large number of persons without insurance," said Jan Gorrie, Legislative Consultant for the Safety Net Alliance. "The strain on the Medicaid program was significant. He was

Capitol Address: 212 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe Street ~ Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 ~ (850) 488-0275
Email: Kevin.Ambler@myfloridahouse.gov ~ **Web Site:** <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>
Staff: Laura Todd, Legislative Aide ~ Amber Smith, District Aide

able to creatively put together a health care budget, which maintained access for those persons in greatest need and sustained the Safety Net hospital providers.”

Representative Ambler has been serving the people of the Northwest Hillsborough County area for over 7 years. Ambler was appointed as House Health Care Appropriations Chairman in December 2008 and currently oversees nearly \$20 billion of the state’s budget, which affects over 2.7 million Medicaid beneficiaries. He also serves as the Vice Chairman of Health Regulation Policy Committee and is a senior ranking member of Civil and Criminal Justice Council. Ambler proudly serves on the Joint Legislative Budget Commission as well as various other Committees.

###

Capitol Address: 212 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe Street ~ Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 ~ (850) 488-0275
Email: Kevin.Ambler@myfloridahouse.gov ~ **Web Site:** <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>
Staff: Laura Todd, Legislative Aide ~ Amber Smith, District Aide