Glode Joins Healthcare Commission

Office of the Governor

Cheyenne - Cheyenne physician Dr. John Glode will soon join the Wyoming Health Care Commission.

Gov. Dave Freudenthal appointed Glode, 59, to replace Dr. Stacy Childs, a urologist from Cheyenne and the only doctor on the commission, who resigned his seat to pursue an out-of-state business opportunity.

The Health Care Commission, authorized by the Legislature during its 2003 session, is charged with developing strategies for improving health care and lowering the costs of health care and medical liability insurance in Wyoming. It faces deadlines of June 30, 2004 for a preliminary report and Dec. 1, 2004 for final recommendations.

"I'm honored to be appointed to the Health Care Commission," Glode said. "I intend to contribute to the fulfillment of the commission's difficult agenda."

A cardiologist, Glode is on staff at United Medical Center in Cheyenne, Carbon County Memorial Hospital in Rawlins and Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie. He also maintains a practice and conducts research in Cheyenne. Glode has also served on the staffs of Longmont United Hospital in Longmont, Colo. and St. Luke's Hospital in Denver.

"While Dr. Childs' resignation will certainly be a loss to the commission, there can be no doubt as to Dr. Glode's credentials in the medical community," Freudenthal said. "He has both the long-standing expertise and the willingness to explore new ideas that I believe is important for a group like the Health Care Commission."

Glode earned his undergraduate degree and medical doctorate from Creighton University in Nebraska. He went on to an internship and residency at the university's affiliate hospitals. Glode also served a cardiology fellowship at Creighton from 1974-75 before going on to do the same for St. Luke's Hospital in Denver in 1985.

"I am concerned that health insurance is becoming unaffordable, making the uninsured population increase rapidly," Glode said. "Cost shifting to the insured population increases premiums. Hopefully the commission can help solve this urgent problem."

"Wyoming is a state where physician practice overhead is becoming prohibitive, especially in certain specialties," he continued. "Physician recruiting has become very competitive, therefore the problem of expensive malpractice premiums must be remedied. We need to explore new and innovative solutions for health care reform."