OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DAVE FREUDENTHAL
State Capitol
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Ph. 307.777.7434

December 9, 2005

******FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE******

Contact: Press Secretary Lara Azar
Office 307.777.7437
Cell 307.421.0197

GOVERNOR APPOINTS CHAIR, MEMBER OF HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

CHEYENNE, Wyo. - Gov. Dave Freudenthal has chosen an original member of the Wyoming Health Care Commission to become that group's chairwoman.

The Governor has also appointed Rex Arney, an attorney from Sheridan, to join the Commission, which was created by statute in 2003 to develop strategies for improving health care and lowering the costs of health care and medical liability insurance in Wyoming. The position of executive director for the commission remains open.

Dixie Roberts, a certified financial planner and financial advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services in Cheyenne, was one of the original nine members of the commission. She holds a bachelor's degree in economics and business administration and a master's degree in psychology and counseling. She is a Democrat.

"Dixie has demonstrated tremendous leadership skills and a real understanding of health care in Wyoming, particularly as it relates to the state's economics," Freudenthal said. "I'm grateful that she has agreed to take on the challenge of leading the Health Care Commission as it continues its very important work."

Roberts said she looks forward to the opportunity to work with the Legislature through the upcoming session.

"The Wyoming Health Care Commission members are excited to continue the work of developing creative recommendations to make health care more accessible and affordable to Wyoming citizens," Roberts said. "This is a significant problem for everyone, and the commission is dedicated to helping find solutions that can be implemented in Wyoming."

Freudenthal also appointed Rex Arney, a partner with the law firm of Brown, Drew & Massey in Sheridan, as a commission member.

Arney is a former state legislator, serving four years in the House and 12 years in the Senate, a member of the Children and Families Initiative Advisory Board and on the Wyoming Blue Cross Blue Shield board, as well as president of the Wyoming State Bar Foundation. He is a Republican.

"It would be difficult to overestimate the importance of improving the accessibility and affordabilty of health care in Wyoming," Arney said. "I look forward to the opportunity to join the other members of the Health Care Commission in crafting real, common sense solutions to some of the challenges facing Wyoming individuals and families."