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OCTOBER 12-20 DECLARED BONE AND JOINT WEEK

HARRISBURG (October 7, 2005) – Gov. Ed Rendell declared October 12 – 20, 2005 Bone and Joint Decade Awareness Week in Pennsylvania, recognizing the efforts of orthopaedic surgeons and others who work with people suffering from bone and joint injuries or diseases.

Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society President P. Christopher Metzger, MD, noted that arthritis affects more than 3.5 million people and costs the Commonwealth more than \$4 billion annually.

“While the specific causes of arthritis are not yet known for most forms of the disease, researchers have made tremendous strides in fighting arthritis and other Musculoskeletal Disorders,” Metzger said. “This week provides an opportunity to educate the public about prevention and treatment and support research to improve the quality of life for patients.”

Bone and joint disorders affect nearly one in three Pennsylvanians. During the week states’ local community groups and healthcare professionals will be spreading awareness and educating the public about prevention as a key step to lowering the number of Pennsylvanians with bone and joint conditions.

“I am greatly encouraged by the efforts of the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade and all those who have joined forces to fight arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions,” Gov. Rendell said in his proclamation. “It is my hope that you will continue to find success in your mission and bring us all a little closer to finding a cure.”

Metzger added that educating Pennsylvanians who are already challenged with a bone and joint condition is key to helping them keep current on treatment options and maximizing quality of life.

For more information on the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade National Awareness Week go to www.usbjd.org.

POS is a professional medical specialty organization representing more than 950 orthopaedic surgeons across Pennsylvania. For more information, visit the POS website at www.paorthosociety.org.

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