



**For more information, contact:**

Todd Schimpf  
The Alliance to Save Florida's Trauma Care  
(888) 536-7806  
[todds@moore-pr.com](mailto:todds@moore-pr.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Key Trauma Bill HB 497 Passes House State Infrastructure Council**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (April 14, 2005) – The House State Infrastructure Council passed House Bill (HB) 497 (The Velez Memorial Traffic Safety Act) creating funding for Florida's trauma centers through the increase the penalty for red light violations. HB 497 raises the penalty for running a red-light from \$60 to \$125 and the additional funds raised would go to help support Florida's trauma centers.

"This is a very important step in securing ongoing funding for Florida's trauma centers," said Amy Maguire, director of the Alliance to Save Florida's Trauma Care. "It is vital that we guarantee that these life-saving services are available for Floridians today and tomorrow."

The Alliance will continue to work with legislators on HB 497, HB 1455, SB 1264 and HB 2434 to secure a legislative mandated funding stream to help alleviate the funding crisis facing Florida's 21 trauma centers.

"Trauma care is unique and essential for the children, and families within our state. It is imperative that we act now to make sure Florida's trauma centers stay open and are ready to save lives," said Rep. Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park), sponsor of HB 497. "These bills will help make our roads safer and ensure access to the critical "golden hour" of treatment for trauma victims in Florida."

Rising readiness costs and the increasing amount of uncompensated and/or under-compensated care provided by trauma centers has caused this funding crisis. Many of Florida's trauma centers may be forced to close their doors or stop providing specialized trauma services if support is not provided.

The Alliance to Save Florida's Trauma Care consists of trauma centers, advocacy organizations, patients, medical personnel, providers and concerned citizens. Our goal is to inform and educate Floridians and our legislators about the impending crisis and to help find solutions for this problem.

For additional information, access [www.SaveFloridaTrauma.org](http://www.SaveFloridaTrauma.org) or call (888) 536-7806.

###