

For Immediate Release

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Health Industry Group Purchasing Association Selects SmithBucklin for Full-Service Management

CHICAGO – April 24, 2006 – The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA), a broad-based trade association that represents 31 purchasing organizations and more than 120 of their trading partners, has selected SmithBucklin as its full-service management company. HIGPA’s headquarters will relocate from Arlington, Va. to SmithBucklin’s offices in Chicago.

Founded in 1990, HIGPA’s group purchasing industry members include for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and health care provider alliances. HIGPA works collaboratively with legislative and regulatory authorities to ensure fair and efficient procurement practices in an open and competitive market within the health industry. HIGPA also offers educational and networking opportunities for its more than 150 member organizations.

“An important goal for us in the coming year is to increase our focus on public policy,” said HIGPA Chair Al LoBiondo. “We know that SmithBucklin’s experience in government relations will be of great benefit to us.”

“Working with HIGPA is a great honor for us,” said SmithBucklin’s Vice President of Client Management Jim Luisi. “We especially look forward to growing HIGPA’s influence in the legislative and regulatory arenas, as well as increasing their collaboration with, and presence in, the healthcare supply chain community.”

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About SmithBucklin

SmithBucklin is the world’s largest association management and professional services company providing flexible, tailored full-service management and function/project-specific services to more than 210 trade associations, professional societies, technology user groups and government institutes/agencies. SmithBucklin’s mission is to drive growth and build sustained competitiveness for client organizations. Founded in 1949, the company employs 630 professionals specializing in all phases of association activity including executive management, member and chapter administration, convention and trade show management, marketing and branding, Web services, education and programs, government relations and financial management. SmithBucklin manages more than \$200 million in annual client budgets from offices in Chicago, Washington, DC, St. Louis and Durham, NC. SmithBucklin is 100 percent employee owned. For more information, please visit www.smithbucklin.com or call 1.800.539.9740.