Executive Order 2008-26

To Develop an Inclusive Statewide Trauma System in Arizona

WHEREAS, injury is the leading cause of death for Arizonans under age 44 with more than 24,000 Arizonans being severely injured every year of which more than 40% fail to reach a designated trauma center within the first "Golden Hour" after their injury, thereby decreasing their chances of survival; and

WHEREAS, more than 60% of traumatic injuries occur in rural Arizona; and

WHEREAS, patient care can be dramatically improved and the nearly $1 billion annual trauma care costs reduced by developing a coordinated and inclusive system of trauma care for the entire state; and

WHEREAS, a recent American College of Surgeons Trauma System Consultation report found that residents in rural Arizona do not have ready access to trauma centers, and by increasing the number of designated trauma centers Arizona will improve its ability to respond to and recover from a mass-injury event; and

WHEREAS, Arizona currently has no Level II, III or IV trauma centers nor do any Level I centers exist outside of Flagstaff and the Tucson and Phoenix metropolitan areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Arizona Constitution and the laws of the State, hereby order as follows:

The Arizona Department of Health Services shall:

1. Increase the number of Arizona health care institutions that participate in the statewide trauma system, particularly those located in rural Arizona.

2. Establish a Trauma Medical Director with expertise in trauma care to formulate standards, guidelines, and rules to further enhance Arizona's trauma system and care.

3. Grow the number of health care institutions that report traumatic injury data to the Arizona State Trauma Registry; an effort that enhances information sources necessary for continued evaluation of, and improvements to, the statewide trauma system.

4. Provide a report to the Governor on the activities and outcomes of developing an Inclusive Statewide Trauma System by December 31, 2008 and annually thereafter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have unto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.

GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on the 6th day of September in the year Two Thousand and Eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-Third.

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE