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STATEMENT

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Statement from Sen. Cecil Staton on trauma center funding

“For the past several months, the Comprehensive State Trauma Services Joint Study Committee has looked at many ways to strategically fund Georgia’s level one and level two trauma centers. Too many Georgians are dying needlessly because of our lack of appropriate trauma centers – in fact we currently are at 20 percent above the national average. That is tragic as far as I’m concerned.

“The bill to fully fund trauma centers for a state of our size is going to be between \$80 and \$85 million each year. Obviously, one viable option is to place the cost of these trauma centers on those who engage in reckless behavior – including those who disobey the speed limit laws in this state and those who drive under the influence of drugs and alcohol on our interstates and highways.

“Over the course of the next year we will study ways to fund the necessary services to keep our citizens alive following a life-threatening accident, and Governor Perdue’s idea to force those people who endanger the lives of our loved ones to pay should be at the top of the list.

“We will continue to look at all of our options, which include a surcharge on cell phones and/or motor vehicle registrations.”

- Sen. Cecil Staton (R-Macon)

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Sen. Cecil Staton of the 18th Senate District may be reached at 404.656.5039. He is chairman of the Senate Science and Technology Committee and represents portions of Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones and Monroe counties.