FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Assemblymember Mary Hayashi to Accept Public Policy Award from American Association of Suicidology

Assemblymember Mary Hayashi of California will be accepting the Public Policy Award from the American Association of Suicidology (AAS) on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the 42nd American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference. This year, the Conference will be held at the Westin St. Francis Hotel located at 335 Powell Street in San Francisco in the Grand Ballroom, beginning on April 15, 2009 and ending on April 18, 2009. The conference is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. every day. The AAS is a membership organization for everyone involved in suicide prevention and intervention and for people who have been touched by suicide.

The Public Policy Award is given to elected officials who are recognized by AAS as leaders in advancing suicide prevention efforts. The award is not granted on an annual basis and the recipient must meet stringent nomination criteria.

When asked why Assemblymember Hayashi will be receiving the award, Karen Marshall, the Program Development Director of AAS, explains “Assemblymember Hayashi is receiving this year’s award because of her role in establishing the California State Office for Suicide Prevention and for her consistent support for suicide prevention efforts in the state.”

Assemblymember Hayashi is a member of the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC). As a member of the MHSOAC, Assemblymember Hayashi has been a catalyst for suicide prevention policies in California.

A few previous award-winners of the Public Policy Award include the former Massachusetts House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi and his wife, Mrs. Barbara DiMasi. U.S. Senator Harry Reid of Nevada has also received the Public Policy Award from AAS.

Contact: Matt Lieberman (916) 261-1870 or 445-8793
matthew.lieberman@dmh.ca.gov