

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 13, 2006

CONTACT: Bill Bradley
(916) 658-0144
bill@perrycom.com

**RESPECTED CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE
APPOINTED TO PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL BOARD**

NATIONAL FOUNDING PARTNER OF WOMEN IMPACTING PUBLIC POLICY APPOINTED TO
THE NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

SACRAMENTO – Mary J. Griffin, President of Griffin & Associates, was appointed to the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) National Small Business Development Center Advisory Board (SBDC Board) for a three year term. Mary is also a National Founding Partner of Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP). SBDC Board members serve as an independent source of advice on matters of importance to the development of small businesses throughout the country. WIPP is the nation’s largest bipartisan public policy organization that advocates for, and on behalf of, women business owners and women in business on economic issues.

“To be appointed to National Small Business Development Center board is a great honor,” said Mary J. Griffin, President of Griffin & Associates. “I wholeheartedly believe in the work that this group is doing and believe my expertise in public policy and as a small business owner will play an integral role in helping small business owners achieve their goals.”

In addition to her work with the SBDC, Mary is also:

- President-Elect of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) as well as the Vice President for Public Policy for the Coalition of California Chapters - NAWBO CA
- Board Member, Institute for Governmental Advocates
- California State Chamber of Commerce member
- Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce member
 - Member of their Health Committee
 - Member of their Small Business Advisory Committee
- A member of Capitol Network
- A member of the California Elected Women’s Association for Education and Research

Mary has had a long, storied career in government, beginning as a committee staff member with the California State Senate and as a personal staff member to a State Senator. She worked with the State Department of Health Services (DHS) as Deputy Director of Legislative and External Affairs, the California Medical Association as Associate Director of Government Relations and then established her own contract lobbying firm, Griffin & Associates, in 1992. Since that time,

(more)

Mary has taken the firm from its small, specialty client base to a full service advocacy firm with a broad spectrum of clients and a myriad of issues. Mary's public and fiscal expertise in the areas of the environment, health care, welfare, government finance, juvenile justice, Medi-Cal, and local government has set her apart from other lobbyists, resulting in the California Health Policy Newsletter recognizing her as one of California's most "experienced and effective lobbyists in health issues." Mary's extensive background in government and the healthcare industry has been recognized and utilized by a number of law firms to assist their clients that have issues before various California Administrative Agencies.

"As a client for several years, I have consistently found her to be knowledgeable and effective," said Brian Roach, MD, President and CEO of the Mills Peninsula Medical Group. "She listens carefully to what my issues are and is able to effectively convey the message to a variety of audiences, including administration officials, legislators and regulators. She is about getting things done – dependably, professionally and with the utmost integrity."

Mary's accomplishments include helping pass legislation that prohibits tobacco companies from handing out free samples of cigarettes or chewing tobacco in public, increasing reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal prescription drugs in long-term care facilities, helping to pass legislation requiring long-term care facilities to offer flu shots to its residents and a wide range of other undertakings that have had a significant impact within the hospital industry, physician practice groups and retail clients.

Griffin & Associates was established in 1992 and offers a complete range of integrated services designed to assist companies or organizations to interact effectively with California State government. Public policy and business goals are clearly defined and articulated with a keen eye on protecting and promoting interests in the State's constantly changing political fiscal environment. For more information, please visit www.mjgriffin.com.

###