The Title Protection and Professional Recognition (TP-PR) Committee is the newest of the American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) eight standing committees. The committee replaces the AAHP ad hoc committee that the Executive Committee formed in 2003. The proposal for the new standing committee was approved by the Executive Committee at its July 2005 meeting. It was incorporated into the AAHP bylaws by the AAHP membership during a special election in 2006.

The committee represents the AAHP in a joint program with the Health Physics Society (HPS) to obtain title protection from federal, state, and/or local governments for CHPs, health physicists, and registered radiation protection technologists (RRPTs) and recognition for the profession of health physics. The committee has the lead for the CHP portion of the program.

What the committee does
The committee primarily deals with the TP-PR program as it relates to CHPs and with the AAHP’s responsibilities under the Tripartite Agreement. It supports similar efforts for HPs and RRPTs for which the HPS has the lead. Many of the committee’s activities are evolving as it learns more about legislative processes and how to most effectively promote our programs. The standing committee continues the excellent work performed by its predecessor ad hoc committee. The work includes:

1. Maintaining and further developing, as needed, the draft model legislation for title protection and professional recognition that is given to supporting members of state legislatures for use in amended and new legislation.
2. Maintaining and amending where necessary the Tripartite Agreement with the HPS and AIHA.
3. Arranging for local CHPs to testify on behalf of proposed legislation.
4. Developing an AAHP position statement on TP-PR.
5. Getting endorsements of the TP-PR program by outside organizations.
6. Developing a legislative reference package for use by local CHPs in their testimony, including the documents in 1, 4, and 5.
7. Coordinating our program with the HPS and the AIHA Government Affairs Director who has the lead in identifying the states to be approached and contacting their legislators.

Committee members
The initial committee members are Kenny Fleming, Judson Kenoyer, Scott Kirk, Ed Maher, Jay Maisler, and Tom Buhl. Maher left the committee in January 2006 when he became president-elect of the Academy.

Much of the initial work of the TP-PR program was done by the ad hoc committee that was formed in 2003. Members included Frazier Bronson, Howard Dickson (committee chair), Kenny Fleming, Regis Greenwood, Judson Kenoyer, Ed Maher, and Tom Essig.

The AAHP greatly appreciates all the effort these individuals have provided in supporting the TP-PR program.