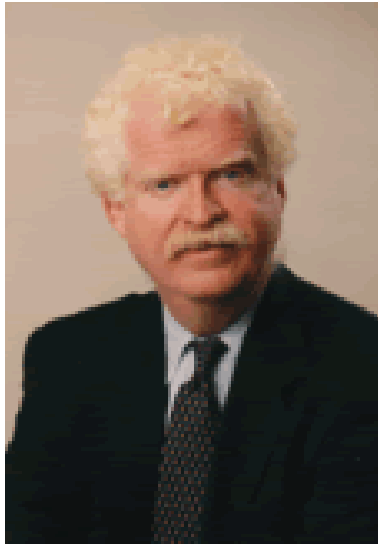


Tom Nickels



Thomas Nickels is Executive Vice President for Government Relations and Public Policy for the American Hospital Association (AHA). As such, he supervises AHA's legislative, political, regulatory, grassroots and legal advocacy efforts. He has been with the AHA since April of 1994. Prior to that, he was Director of the Washington Office of the American College of Emergency Physicians for five years, and prior to that was the Acting Director of the Washington Office of the American Nurses Association. In addition, he served as a legislative assistant to Representative Edward Biester, Republican of Pennsylvania. A native of Philadelphia, Mr. Nickels received a B.A. in English and Philosophy from Dickinson College in 1975, and a J.D. from New York University School of Law in 1979.