

Actions taken by the House of Delegates
October 17, 2009

REFERENCE COMMITTEE A

Resolution 101A.09 – Letter of Recommendation to Governor Perdue

Adopted as amended Resolution 101A.09 that the Medical Association of Georgia will have our President write the Governor a letter of commendation for reversing the practice of retroactive denials for Medicaid patients. An additional letter of commendation shall be written to the Georgia Physician's Partnership who stimulated this change.

Resolution 102A.09 – Board Recertification

Adopted Resolve 1 of Resolution 102A.09 that the Medical Association of Georgia's delegation to the American Medical Association urge the American Medical Association to immediately take a proactive approach through appropriate channels to persuade the American Board of Medical Specialties that medical specialty board recertification be voluntary.

Adopted Resolve 2 of Resolution 102A.09 that the Medical Association of Georgia's delegation to the American Medical Association urge the American Medical Association regularly report to its members the efforts it has undertaken to persuade the American Board of Medical Specialties that medical specialty board recertification be voluntary.

Resolution 103A.09 – Tax Credits for Uncompensated Care

Adopted as amended Resolution 103A.09 that the Medical Association of Georgia support efforts to develop a bad debt deduction and/or tax credit in an amount equal to the Medicaid physician fee schedule for the particular uncompensated services rendered by physicians or physician groups.

Resolution 104A.09 – Automatic External Defibrillators

Adopted Resolve 1 of Resolution 104A.09, that MAG support all efforts to equip police with an AED.

Adopted Resolve 2 of Resolution 104A.09, that MAG support efforts on training police officers in the proper use of AEDS.

Resolution 105A.09 – Tanning Beds

Adopted by substitution Resolution 105A.09, that MAG work through appropriate channels to urge the AMA and the State of Georgia use this World Health Organization rating that indoor tanning is of the same class of carcinogen as asbestos and tobacco to protect the public from the dangers of indoor tanning, specifically supporting the following:

- A ban on use of tanning beds by minors;
- Signed consent forms that specify the risk of melanoma and other forms of skin cancer for users of indoor tanning; and
- A ban on calling indoor tanning "safe."

REFERENCE COMMITTEE C

Resolution 301C.09 – Tobacco Tax

Adopted as amended Resolution 301C.09, that MAG support an increase in the state tobacco tax to reduce tobacco use.

Resolution 302C.09 – Trauma

Adopted as amended Resolution 302C.09, that the Medical Association of Georgia make the passage of legislation creating a statewide trauma network with a permanent funding source that includes direct compensation to physicians a legislative priority of the Georgia General Assembly and that it remains so until successful passage and implementation is achieved.

Resolution 303C.09 – Health Care Truth and Transparency

Referred to the Board of Directors Resolution 303C.09 calling on MAG to advocate for state legislation to prohibit misleading and deceptive advertising or representation in the provision of healthcare services.

Resolution 304C.09 – Physician Health Program

Adopted Resolve 1 of Resolution 304C.09, that MAG support legislation that includes establishing an impaired physician treatment program with necessary statutory authority and adequate funding to operate efficiently and effectively to assess and treat impaired physicians.

Did Not Adopt Resolve 2 of Resolution 304C.09 calling for MAG to support any necessary changes in policy including an increase in physician licensing fees to secure funding for establishment of such Physician Health Program.

Resolution 305C.09 – Balanced Billing for EMTALA Mandated Emergency Care

Adopted as amended Resolution 305C.09 that the Medical Association of Georgia is opposed to any legislative attempts to prohibit the balance billing of patients by non-contracted physicians.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE F

Officer 04.09 – Treasurer – Informational Report on the Status of MAG Finances

Accepted Officer 04.09 (Treasurer Report) for information and placed in the historical records of the Association.

Officer 05.09 – Chairman of the Board – 2010 Membership Dues

Adopted Officer 05.09 (Chairman of the Board) that MAG's membership dues remain the same in 2010 as is current.

Policy 535.999 – Committee Reports and Minutes

Adopted as amended revised Policy 535.999, that MAG Board of Directors will approve actions of the Executive Committee since the previous Board meeting.

[Policy 535.999 will require a title change to Committee Reports]

Policy 530.921 – Investment Policy

Adopted as amended revised Policy 530.921, that MAG Board of Directors shall adopt an Investment Policy consistent with the goal of accumulation of capital and the preservation of its value for the economic betterment of MAG.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Committee 04.09, Recommendation A.1 – Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted Recommendation A.1 of Committee 04.09 that amends the Constitution with nine amendments laying on the table since 2008.

Committee 04.09, Recommendation B.1 – Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted Recommendation B.1 of Committee 04.09 that amends the Bylaws by inserting language relating to district societies from the Constitution into the Bylaws.

Committee 04.09, Recommendation B.2 – Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted Recommendation B.2 of Committee 04.09 that amends the Bylaws by inserting language relating to special meetings from the Constitution into the Bylaws.

Committee 04.09, Recommendation B.3 – Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted Recommendation B.3 of Committee 04.09 that amends the Bylaws by inserting language relating to ex-officio members of the House of Delegates from the Constitution into the Bylaws and by re-lettering paragraphs to account for amendments.

Committee 04.09, Recommendation B.4 – Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted Recommendation B.4 of Committee 04.09 that amends the Bylaws by inserting language from the Constitution relating to ex-officio members of the Board of Directors into the Bylaws.

Committee 04.09, Recommendation B.5 – Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted Recommendation B.5 of Committee 04.09 that amends the Bylaws by inserting language relating to the election and terms of officers from the Constitution into the Bylaws.

Committee 04.09, Recommendation B.6 – Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

Adopted Recommendation B.6 of Committee 04.09 that amends the Bylaws by re-lettering and renumbering the remaining sections of Chapter VII and subsequent chapters as necessary to account for the amendments.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH SYSTEM REFORM

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 1, (Portability and Individual Ownership of Insurance)

Adopted Recommendation 1 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform) that MAG support health care reform legislation that promotes individual ownership of health insurance policies.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 2, (The Right to Privately Contract)

Adopted Recommendation 2 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG support the rights of patients and physicians to privately contract for medical care in any situation, regardless of third party payer, without penalty.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 3, (Primary Care Payments)

Adopted Recommendation 3 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG support increased payments to physicians who practice in primary care specialties.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 4, (The Medical Home).

Adopted Recommendation 4 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG supports the concept of the Medical Home that is consistent with the AMA's Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 5, (Use of Tax-Free Dollars to Purchase Health Insurance)

Adopted Recommendation 5 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG supports an individual's right to purchase health insurance with tax-free dollars regardless of employment status.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 6, (Use of Tax Credits and Subsidies to Purchase Health Insurance)

Adopted Recommendation 6 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG support legislation which provides tax credits and subsidies to individuals who cannot afford to purchase their own health insurance, as a means of promoting individual ownership of private health insurance.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 7, (Medicaid or SCHIP Eligibility Expansion)

Adopted as amended Recommendation 7 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG support legislation that would strongly urge that 90 percent of those individuals under 200 percent of the federal poverty level be enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP before eligibility in those programs are expanded.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 8, (Repeal of (SGR) the Sustainable Growth Rate)

Adopted Recommendation 8 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG support the repeal of the sustainable growth rate (SGR) in a manner that eliminates the accumulated cuts and bases future Medicare payments to the Medicare Economic Index.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 9, (Defined Contribution)

Adopted Recommendation 9 of Officer 01.09, (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG support the promotion of defined contributions, which allow employers to provide pre-tax monetary contributions to employees for the purchase of private health insurance in lieu of an employer-sponsored health care plan.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 10, (Opposition to the Public Option)

Adopted Recommendation 10 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG oppose any health insurance reform that would include a public option (or a trigger mechanism that would enact a public option) that would establish a new or expand an existing government-run health care plan to compete with the private sector.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 11, (Employer Mandate)

Adopted Recommendation 11 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG reaffirm its position to oppose any statutory mandate that employers provide health insurance benefits to their employees.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 12, (Individual Mandate)

Adopted Recommendation 12 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG opposes any statutory imposed mandate that individuals secure health insurance.

Officer 01.09 – President (National Health Care Reform), Recommendation 13, (Illegal Immigrants)

Adopted Recommendation 13 of Officer 01.09 (President, National Health Care Reform), that MAG oppose legislation that would allow individuals that are not lawfully in the United States to obtain health care benefits funded in whole or in part by the government.

Resolution 601HSR.09 – AMA and H.R. 3200 (Resolves 1-2)

Did Not Adopt Resolve 1 of Resolution 601HSR (AMA and H.R. 3200), that the Medical Association of Georgia House of Delegates ask the Georgia Delegation to the AMA to submit a resolution requesting the AMA apologize to the physicians of the United States for its unqualified support of H.R. 3200 because it contained provisions that were clearly contrary to current AMA policy and did not address other areas which are clearly a part of AMA's Health Care Reform Policy.

Adopted Resolve 2 of Resolution 601HSR (AMA and H.R. 3200), that the Medical Association of Georgia House of Delegates ask the Georgia Delegation to the AMA to submit a resolution that the AMA will only support comprehensive health care reform that includes meaningful tort reform, insurance reform, physician payment reform, and patient responsibility and choice reform, and the right of physicians and patients to privately contract.

Adopted new Resolve 3, that MAG asks the AMA to withdraw its unqualified support of H.R. 3200.

Resolution 602HSR.09 – Health Care Reform, (Resolves 1-3)

Adopted Resolve 1 of Resolution 602HSR – Health Care Reform, that the Medical Association of Georgia, through lobbying activities at the local, state and national levels, promote health care reform that supports the revitalization of primary care via payment system reform and workforce augmentation.

Adopted Resolve 2 of Resolution 602HSR – Health Care Reform, that the Medical Association of Georgia, through lobbying activities and through grassroots membership advocacy activities at the local, state and national levels, promote health care reform that support patient-centeredness by expansion of pilot projects for the Patient-Centered Medical Home.

Adopted Resolve 3 of Resolution 602HSR – Health Care Reform, that the Medical Association of Georgia, through lobbying activities and through grassroots membership advocacy activities at the local, state and national levels, promote health care reform that supports expansion of health care access for our patients.