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Medical  
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*Building a Better State of Health Since 1849*

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### **MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA REMAINS FOCUSED ON FREE MARKET SOLUTIONS, PHYSICIAN-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP AT AMA MEETING**

ATLANTA – The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) has maintained its unwavering leadership role in promoting a free market and the restoration of the physician-patient relationship as the keys to preserving and enhancing the nation’s health care system during the American Medical Association’s House of Delegates meeting in Chicago this week.

“Going into this meeting, MAG built a coalition of more than 20 state and specialty societies that believes that a competitive environment is the key to preserving the world’s best health care system,” says MAG President M. Todd Williamson, a neurologist from Lawrenceville. “That means allowing physicians and patients to enter into contractual agreements on an individual basis using the patient’s unique health insurance coverage circumstances as a baseline for the discussion.”

MAG AMA Delegation Chair Joseph P. Bailey, M.D., an Augusta-based rheumatologist, says that the MAG delegation has been focused on two key resolutions during this week’s AMA meeting...

- When it passed on Monday, **Resolution 203** elevated a physician’s right to privately contract with patients to the top of AMA’s list of priorities. The resolution was introduced by the MAG-led, multi-stakeholder coalition.
- MAG supports **Resolution 110** to oppose the creation of a public health insurance plan, something MAG believes could reduce competition in the private sector.

In terms of the address that President Barack Obama delivered to AMA delegates Monday, Dr. Williamson says, “We applaud the president’s willingness to address physicians directly and for his promise to work with America’s physicians. We also appreciate the president’s call for an increased investment in preventative care and electronic health records. However, we remain deeply concerned that the main thrust of his reform proposal calls for increased government involvement in how we as professionals deliver medical care to our patients.”

Dr. Williamson adds that MAG supports H.R. 1384 by U.S. Rep. Tom Price – a bill that would let some physicians and patients enter into individual contractual agreements.

Go to [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org) for more information on the AMA meeting. With more than 6,600 members, MAG ([www.mag.org](http://www.mag.org)) is the leading voice for physicians in Georgia.

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