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MAG DISAPPOINTED, CONCERNED WITH HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

ATLANTA – Gary. C. Richter, M.D., the president of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG), says he is disappointed and concerned that the U.S. House of Representatives passed the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” (H.R. 3590) because it will transfer control over medical decisions from patients and physicians to government bureaucrats.

“We should be empowering the individual patient,” Dr. Richter says. “And we should be promoting the patient-physician relationship, which has served as the foundation for the best medical care in the world.”

Dr. Richter promises that, “MAG will continue to do what’s best for patients and physicians in the state of Georgia based on the policies that have been established by its House of Delegates.” He says that the vast majority of physicians in the state are opposed to an increased role for government in health care.

In terms of solutions, Dr. Richter says MAG supports the right to privately contract without third party interference or penalty.

He also believes that it is imperative for the profession of medicine to determine the quality of medical care – not the government or other third party payers.

And he says the country will never have a truly sustainable health care system without medical liability reform that’s based on proven policies.

“We are ultimately concerned about patient access to care,” Dr. Richter concludes. “Doctors simply want to take care of their patients in their hour of need.”

With more than 6,000 members, MAG is the leading voice for physicians in Georgia. Go to www.mag.org for additional information.

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