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**MAG INSTRUMENTAL IN COALITION REPRESENTING MORE THAN 43,000 PHYSICIANS  
CALLING FOR “PATIENT-CENTERED” HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

ATLANTA – The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) has been instrumental in forming a coalition of 11 state, specialty and county medical groups that represents more than 43,000 physicians to oppose H.R. 3200, “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.” In a July 21 letter to congressional leaders, coalition members promoted what MAG President M. Todd Williamson, M.D., says are “essential principles that should serve as the foundation for a patient-centered health care system.” Dr. Williamson says the coalition members believe that...

- Every person in the U.S. should be able to choose their own health plan and their own physician.
- Allowing patients to privately contract with their physicians will result in greater access to care, and it will provide government with budget certainty.
- Medical professionals should determine appropriate medical care – not the government.
- Comparative effectiveness research will lead to payment or coverage determinations.
- A government-run health plan will result in a single-payer system.

Dr. Williamson spoke on behalf of the coalition at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., this morning that was sponsored by the Coalition to Protect Patients’ Rights – which is headed up by former American Medical Association President Donald J. Palmisano, M.D.

“Our coalition is urging President Obama and members of Congress to reform our health care financing system in a way that emphasizes individual choice and responsibility while increasing transparency and accountability at the level of the patient-physician interaction.” Dr. Williamson said. “This will enable America’s physicians to maintain the best medical care system in the world.”

In addition to MAG, the coalition includes the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Medical Society of Delaware, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the Kansas Medical Society, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the South Carolina Medical Association, the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Triological Society, and the Sarasota County (Fla.) Medical Society. It also includes Dr. Palmisano and another former AMA president, William G. Plested III, M.D. Go to [www.mag.org/nationalhealthcarereform/](http://www.mag.org/nationalhealthcarereform/) for more information.

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