

Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG's activities over the last few weeks. As always, my previous updates can be found at <http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message>.

Affordable Care Act

Before the holidays, the congressional chairman of the committees of jurisdiction sent a letter to all the state governors and the commissioners of insurance asking for input into a replacement of the Affordable Care Act. Organized medicine was asked to send a letter to each state's governors and commissioners of insurance on their policies regarding healthcare reform. MAG responded by sending a letter to Governor Nathan Deal and Commissioner of Insurance Ralph Hudgens outlining MAG's policies that were developed by the House of Delegates. MAG's letter can be found at <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/MAG-outlines-key-HC-reform-points-in-letter-to-Gov-Deal>. AMA's letter can be found at <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/AMA-addresses-ACA-HC-reform-in-letter-to-Congress>. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Physicians Day at the Capitol

Physicians Day at the Capitol will be held on January 25th. Please take the time to register at <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form?EQBCT=c0e4eed78138420ea0be7607b6f4e7a4>. Please do not miss this opportunity for organized medicine to speak with one voice.

Veterans Administration and Anesthesiologists – Scope of Practice Request

Here is a message from the American Society of Anesthesiologists asking for support:

I'm following up on my message of December 20, 2016, when I reported that VA leadership carved out nurse anesthetists from the VA Nursing Handbook (VANH) final rule. Please take note - I also reported that VA added another thirty-day comment period to the final rule specifically requesting more information regarding access to anesthesia services at VA facilities. Additionally, I hope that you saw in yesterday's ASAP, the AANA and other national nursing organizations launched aggressive last-ditch effort campaigns for comments. YOUR immediate, and aggressive counter response is crucial!

While the final rule is final and will be implemented January 13, 2017, VA leadership stated that they will be using comments from this additional comment period as their guide in determining if future rulemaking is indicated.

As ASA's Safe VA Care Campaign Chairman and now your ASA President, I am imploring you to immediately -- TODAY -- implement now our incredibly successful "VANH 1+5 Plan" that was the core of our unprecedented response rate in 2016. You must immediately get your group/department at 100% for comment submission on SafeVACare.org <<http://safevacare.org/>>.

Amicus Brief

Please see the attached link summarizing an amicus brief MAG filed addressing an issue involving "surprise witnesses" being called in a lawsuit. For more information, please go to http://www.mag.org/news/articles/amicus_2017.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Donald

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