

Dear all:

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

Governor Deal “Sign/Veto” Bills

Governor Deal had until May 9 to sign a bill into law or veto a bill. A summary will be sent to the membership in the next few days.

Here is brief summary of MAG priorities that were signed into law:

- HB 165 (Maintenance of Certification) - <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/Gov-Deal-signs-MOC-bill-into-law>
- Patient Safety
 - HB 249 (Opioids and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program) - <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/Gov-Deal-signs-bills-to-combat-Rx-drug-abuse>
 - SB 47 (Visiting Physicians for Sports Teams)
 - SB 102 (Cardiac Treatment Centers)
 - SB 193 (Expedited Partner Therapy)
 - HB 153 (Optometric Injections in and around the eye) –
 - In addition, the Governor issued an executive order with HB 153 that required the Department of Public Health to provide guidance as to the curriculum required by the Board of Optometry. The executive order provides an added measure of safety for the public.
- Fiscal Year Budget that included Medicaid increase for primary care physicians accepting Medicaid

In addition, Governor Deal issued a veto for SB 125, which allows physician assistants to prescribe a limited supply of hydrocodone combination products. The Governor was concerned about adding more opioid prescriptions while the state is in the midst of an opioid epidemic.

HB 249 (Opioids and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)

Please see the attached summary of HB 249 - <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/MAG-encouraging-physicians-to-review-HB249-PDMP-overview>. The summary outlines the new prescription drug monitoring program requirements going into effect over the course of the next year. If you have any questions, please contact Bethany Sherrer at bs herrer@mag.org. A MAG alert was sent yesterday to the membership.

Senate District 32 Runoff

Just a reminder that the runoff election for Senate District 32 is Tuesday. Early voting is already underway. MAG is supporting longtime member and orthopedic surgeon – Dr. Kay Kirkpatrick. Please take a moment and vote for Dr. Kirkpatrick at Tuesday’s election. More information can be found at <http://www.mag.org/newsletter/MAG-encouraging-members-to-support-Kay-Kirkpatrick-in-Senate-runoff>.

Medical College of Georgia/Augusta University

Congratulations to Dr. Hess for being named the Dean of the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University. For more information, please go to <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/MCG-names-new-dean>.

MAG Fly In to Washington DC

Please see the attached picture of the MAG Fly In to Washington DC that happened last week. At the Fly In, we met with the Georgia congressional delegation on both sides of the aisle. As an added bonus, we had the opportunity to witness the healthcare debate in the House of Representatives from the gallery. A special thanks to all the physicians that attended. A very big thanks to Congressman Drew Ferguson and State Representative Betty Price for taking the time to lead a nighttime tour at the Capitol.

American Health Care Act

On May 4, the House Republicans narrowly passed the American Health Care Act that repeals the Affordable Care Act. The bill has received opposition from many national physician, patient and health care groups. At this time, MAG has not taken a position on the bill. The bill resides in the Senate and there is speculation there will be many changes to the bill. As the bill further develops, MAG will send surveys to the membership seeking input before your leadership decides to take a position. We are not anticipating any final action on this bill until sometime in September (at the earliest). In the interim, please see the following statement from the American Medical Association - <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/AMA-president-weighs-in-after-House-passes-AHCA> and <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/AMA-says-proposed-changes-to-AHCA-do-not-remedy-shortcomings>.

SE Medical Legal Symposium

In September, Dr. Mitch Nudelman (longtime MAG member and physician/attorney) is leading a symposium that will be held at the State Bar of Georgia on medical/legal issues. Topics to be discussed include opioids, medical/legal testimony, expert witnesses and various other topics. If you have an interest in attending, please go to <https://www.nudelmanandassociates.com/symposium2017>.

Anthem/CIGNA Merger

A big thanks to the American Medical Association, Connecticut State Medical Society and Colorado Medical Society for their work on the Anthem/CIGNA merger. MAG, AMA, CSMS and CMS led the charge with the other state medical societies in opposing the Anthem/CIGNA and Aetna/Humana merger. The United States Court of Appeals upheld the lower district court ruling that the Anthem/CIGNA merger would significantly reduce competition with limited benefits for patients. Defeating these mergers would not have been possible without your grassroots and organized medicine working together. For more information, please go to <http://www.mag.org/news/articles/AMA-applauds-ruling-to-uphold-rejection-of-Anthem-Cigna-merger>.

Rome Area Medical Society/7th District Meeting

This week, the Rome Area Medical Society held a meeting discussing the importance of physicians recognizing if a patient is involved in human trafficking. Additionally, Dr. Cowan is leading an initiative in the Rome Area addressing human trafficking. If you are interested in learning more, please let me know directly and I will put you in touch with Dr. Cowan. We want to thank Dr. Cowan for his work in this area. Please see the attached picture from the event.

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me.



Every 2 minutes...
a girl is sold into sex slavery

UR MISSION

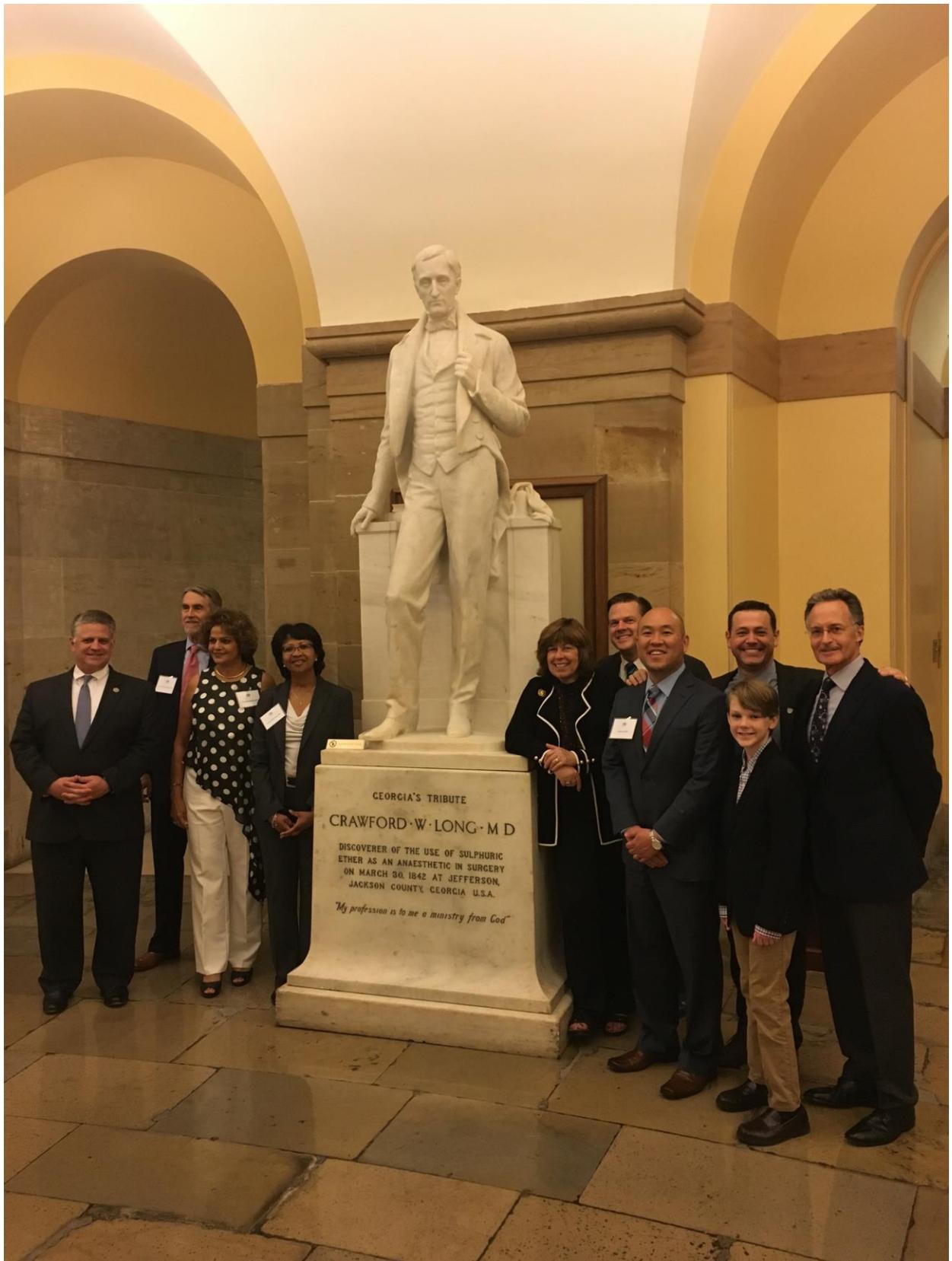
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