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Medical Association of Georgia

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

March 10, 2015

Jean O'Connor JD, DrPH
Director, Chronic Disease Prevention Section
Georgia Department of Public Health
2 Peachtree Street, 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Dr. O'Connor:

With more than 7,500 members, the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) has been the leading voice for physicians in the state since 1849. MAG represents physicians in every specialty and practice setting in the state. MAG fully supports the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH)-Chronic Disease Prevention Section in its efforts to obtain *Organized Approaches to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening* (CDC-RFA-DP15-1502) program funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Keeping in mind that patient safety is one of MAG's primary goals, MAG is confident that this funding will result in higher colorectal cancer screening rates in Georgia, including...

1. Increased capacity and support for organized colorectal cancer screening within health systems.
2. Direct colorectal cancer screening delivery among an identified program priority population to improve access to the underserved.

Also note that in 2010 MAG supported the Georgia DPH in its efforts to secure CDC funding for its "Together We Can: Georgia Colorectal Cancer Control Program" to increase colorectal cancer screening rates in the state – a program MAG would like to see expanded.

Once again, MAG fully supports the Georgia DPH-Chronic Disease Prevention Section in its efforts to obtain *Organized Approaches to Increase Colorectal Cancer Screening* program funding from the CDC and looks forward to continuing our collaboration with the Georgia DPH as we collectively work to improve the health of Georgians.

Sincerely,

Manoj H. Shah, MD
President
Medical Association of Georgia