



MAG Advocacy Brief (2015)

SUPPORT: HEALTH CARE PROVIDER STABILITY ACT

The Health Care Provider Stability Act would require health insurers to honor the terms of their contracts with physicians for the full duration of the agreement.

While surprising, insurers in Georgia can actually change the terms of their contracts with physicians – including how much they get paid – in the middle of multi-year contracts without the physician's consent. The bottom line is that physicians end up getting less pay for providing the same patient care as a result of this administrative cost-cutting tactic.

The Health Care Provider Stability Act is good for Georgia because it will result in a more favorable practice environment in the state, therefore helping to ensure that Georgians have access to enough physicians to provide their medical care – keeping in mind that Georgia lost nearly 54 percent of the physicians who graduated from a medical school in Georgia to other states in 2012.

It is only fair and equitable to require health insurers in Georgia to honor their contracts for the entire term of those contracts. Like any business, medical practices in the state should be entitled to this kind of stability and budget certainty.

The Health Care Provider Stability Act is good for patients because will help to solidify their relationship with their physicians and it will help to ensure that there aren't any breakdowns in the continuity of their care (i.e., there aren't any interruptions health care services as a result of contractual changes between the insurer and the physician).

Lawmakers recently introduced a comparable bill (H.B. 2303) in Tennessee.

Contact Marcus Downs at 404.797.0488 or mardowns@mag.org for additional information. With more than 7,500 members, MAG is the leading voice for the medical profession in Georgia – which includes physicians in every specialty and practice setting. MAG membership has increased by more than 35 percent since 2010. Go to www.mag.org for additional information.