Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG’s activities over the last few weeks. As always, please go to http://www.mag.org/resources/executive-directors-message for our previous updates.

**America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) v. Georgia Commissioner of Insurance**

Recently, AHIP filed a lawsuit against the Georgia Commissioner of Insurance challenging Georgia’s new prompt pay statute as being preempted by ERISA (federal law). The new prompt pay statute is applicable to third party administrators of self funded plans. The new prompt pay statute was MAG’s number one priority in 2010 and 2011. Attorney General Sam Olens will defend the state in this case and we have already contacted him. We are in the process of assessing MAG’s involvement in this matter. Please feel free to email me directly with any thoughts on this matter.

**House of Delegates**

The meeting is rapidly approaching and we have received nearly 40 advocacy resolutions. We anticipate having the book posted online in the next two weeks. This is great news and we would encourage everyone to come prepared with clear and concise statements on the issues they will provide testimony.

In addition, MAG has developed an “app” for the House of Delegates. The “app” can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/app.

**Georgia Composite Medical Board**

On Thursday, the medical board will address the proposed rules on telemedicine, which can be found at http://medicalboard.georgia.gov/sites/medicalboard.georgia.gov/files/Telemedicine%20Rule%20Posting.pdf. We previously sent these rules to you and have received feedback. If you have any further feedback, please let me know. We will be in attendance at this hearing.

**Georgia Department of Public Health**

The DPH recently released proposed rules for childhood health screenings. Working closely with the Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, we submitted the following comments attached to this email.

The DPH also released a form for Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment. We worked with a group of stakeholders on this form and owe a special thanks to Dr. Richard Cohen for including us in the work group. The form can be found at http://www.mag.org/news/articles/polst.

**Georgia Chamber of Commerce**

MAG has a seat on the Georgia Chamber of Commerce’s Health Policy Committee. On September 25, the Chamber is hosting the 2012 Health Care Forum: The Future of Health Care & Impact on Your Business. With the U.S. Supreme Court upholding the new federal health care law -- and the November elections looming -- join national experts, policymakers and business leaders at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta to learn what’s next for health care in Georgia. Speakers include a keynote address by Thomas Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and star of HBO’s acclaimed documentary series The Weight of the Nation. Other featured speakers include Ken Thorpe, Health Policy & Management Chair at Emory University and a former Clinton administration advisor, and Cindy Gillespie, managing director of McKenna Long & Aldridge and a former advisor to Governor Mitt Romney. Click here to learn more and purchase tickets.

As always, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Donald

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr.
Executive Director/CEO
Medical Association of Georgia
1849 The Exchange
Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
678-303-9290 (Phone)
678-303-3732 (Fax)
404-312-9030 (Mobile)

_The leading voice for the medical profession in Georgia...every physician in every specialty._