Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update on MAG’s activities.

**MAG House of Delegates**

It has been over a week since the U.S. Supreme Court found the Affordable Care Act constitutional. I hope you found the Town Hall we provided educational and informative. Here is the link to the recording on our website, as well as to the executive summary. [http://www.mag.org/news/articles/townhall_recording](http://www.mag.org/news/articles/townhall_recording). Please note there will be another Town Hall meeting held on August 14 at 6:30 pm discussing the ACA, which will also be recorded.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court found the individual mandate constitutional as a tax, the U.S. Supreme Court found the states could either opt in or opt out of the Medicaid expansion, which was an unexpected option. Some states (Texas, Florida, South Carolina) have already refused to expand their Medicaid population. At this point, Georgia has not made a decision on whether to expand the Medicaid population or implement a Georgia health insurance exchange until after the November elections. We continue to maintain contact with the Governor’s office and the Department of Community Health on these very important issues.

Going forward, this presents a unique opportunity for the House of Medicine. As you all know, the MAG House of Delegates will be held in Savannah on October 20 and 21. Unless an answer is needed from the Governor’s office or the Department of Community Health on the Medicaid expansion or health insurance exchanges prior to October, the House of Delegates will be the forum for that debate. We will have a special Reference Committee devoted solely to those and other similar issues. Regardless if the ACA is repealed or “the law of the land” after January, we should have policy on some of these important issues as health care will be debated for years to come. Some issues to discuss would be MAG’s position on the following:

- Should MAG support/oppose the Medicaid expansion of the population that is 133% of the FPL?
- Should MAG support/oppose a Georgia or federal health insurance exchanges?
- Should MAG seek legislation calling for medical liability protection for the unintended consequences of PPACA on the practice of medicine? An example of this type of legislation would be Congressman Phil Gingrey’s H.R. 816 Provider Shield Act.
- Should mid level providers be forced to clearly identify their educational level to patients now that there a number of doctor programs?


**Attracting Physicians to Georgia**
Over the weekend, Sandra Reed, MD., Marcus Downs and I were invited and attended the Georgia Pharmacy Association’s annual meeting. At the meeting, we had an opportunity to speak with state representative Butch Parrish, a pharmacist and vice-chairman of appropriations. In speaking with Representative Parrish, he asked for ways in which we would attract physicians in Georgia. We spoke about the importance of medical liability reform, improvements in the Medicaid system and loan forgiveness programs. We told Representative Parrish we would reach out to our board of directors on other ways to make Georgia attractive to physicians.

At this time, we are asking for any ideas you may have that would make Georgia attractive to physicians beside the suggestions above. Please forward them to my attention. In fact, you could also submit a resolution to our House of Delegates on this very issue.

As always, if you need anything, please do not hesitate to call.

Donald

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