



MAG Advocacy Brief (2015)

SUPPORT: 'PROFESSIONAL TRANSPARENCY'

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) believes that professional transparency legislation will enhance Georgia's health care system by requiring every health care professional to wear a badge that includes their credentials and their official role (e.g., physician, PA, nurse) when they are interacting with a patient.

MAG believes that every Georgian should have clear and immediate access to a health care professional's qualifications – including their years of education and training and clinical experience.

A survey that the Global Strategy Group (GSG) conducted in 2008 on behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) found that nearly 85 percent of Americans support physician-led health care teams. GSG also discovered that U.S. patients are often confused about their health care professional's credentials (i.e., the difference in education and training between physicians, nurses, PAs and others). And follow-up surveys that Baseline Associates conducted for AMA in 2010 and 2012 had similar results.

Another nationwide survey that Baseline conducted in 2012 found that 87 percent of Americans would support legislation that required all health care professionals to address their level of education and skills and training in their advertising.

It is also worth noting that 12 states have passed truth in advertising bills that address professional transparency, including Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

Professional transparency legislation will enhance patient safety by enabling Georgians to make better, more informed decisions when it comes to selecting their health care professionals.

Professional transparency legislation will not limit any health care provider's scope of practice – and the professional boards in the state will be responsible for enforcing the act for their respective profession.

MAG believes that every health care professional in the state should be required to disclose their qualifications and training to patients with clarity and transparency. Professional transparency legislation will ensure that Georgians have access to the information they need – and the peace of mind they deserve – when it comes to selecting their health care professionals.

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.