

Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of MAG activities. As always, my previous updates can be found at [www.mag.org/executivedirector](http://www.mag.org/executivedirector).

### **Georgia General Assembly – Alert**

Please contact members of the Senate Insurance and Labor committee and ask them to vote in favor of SB 352 (MAG priority – Continuity of Care). SB 352 is up tomorrow and we need you to email your legislators. SB 352 does the following:

- SB 352 is sponsored by Senator Dean Burke MD, Senator Kay Kirkpatrick MD, Senator Ben Watson MD;
- Consumer/patient protection bill;
- Ensures a patient can expect that the physicians/providers that were listed in the health plan at the time of purchase will remain for the duration of the contract year of the patient's health insurance plan;
- If a physician/provider is removed from the health plan after the patient purchases the plan, the health plan must allow the physicians/providers to be treated as in-network for that patient;
- Keeps a patient from being placed in the middle of a dispute between a provider and payer;
- Please support SB 352.

The Insurance and Labor Committee members can be reached at the following:

- [Jones, Burt](mailto:burt.jones@senate.ga.gov) - [burt.jones@senate.ga.gov](mailto:burt.jones@senate.ga.gov)
- [Martin IV, P. K.](mailto:p.k.martin@senate.ga.gov) - [p.k.martin@senate.ga.gov](mailto:p.k.martin@senate.ga.gov)
- [Harbin, Marty](mailto:marty.harbin@senate.ga.gov) - [marty.harbin@senate.ga.gov](mailto:marty.harbin@senate.ga.gov)
- [Sims, Freddie Powell](mailto:freddie.sims@senate.ga.gov) - [freddie.sims@senate.ga.gov](mailto:freddie.sims@senate.ga.gov)
- [Unterman, Renee S](mailto:renee.unterman@senate.ga.gov) - [renee.unterman@senate.ga.gov](mailto:renee.unterman@senate.ga.gov)
- [Watson, Ben](mailto:ben.watson@senate.ga.gov) - [ben.watson@senate.ga.gov](mailto:ben.watson@senate.ga.gov)
- [Burke, Dean](mailto:dean.burke@senate.ga.gov) - [dean.burke@senate.ga.gov](mailto:dean.burke@senate.ga.gov)
- [Harbison, Ed](mailto:ben.watson@senate.ga.gov) - [ben.watson@senate.ga.gov](mailto:ben.watson@senate.ga.gov)
- [Kirkpatrick, Kay](mailto:kay.kirkpatrick@senate.ga.gov) - [kay.kirkpatrick@senate.ga.gov](mailto:kay.kirkpatrick@senate.ga.gov)
- [Lucas, David](mailto:david.lucas@senate.ga.gov) - [david.lucas@senate.ga.gov](mailto:david.lucas@senate.ga.gov)
- [Robertson, Randy](mailto:randy.robertson@senate.ga.gov) - [randy.robertson@senate.ga.gov](mailto:randy.robertson@senate.ga.gov)
- [Walker, III, Larry](mailto:larry.walker@senate.ga.gov) - [larry.walker@senate.ga.gov](mailto:larry.walker@senate.ga.gov)

### **Physicians Day at the Capitol**

Great day for the physicians of Georgia. Many thanks to Governor Brian Kemp for attending the luncheon and addressing the physicians. Other guests included members of the Senate, House of Representatives and various commissioners. The priority issues discussed between the physicians and the legislators included tort reform, surprise billing and SB 352 above.

### **National Organized Medicine Leaders Recognized in Georgia**

On February 18, the Georgia House and Senate honored three Georgia physicians who lead national physicians' advocacy organizations with resolutions, including American Medical Association President Patrice Harris, M.D., M.A., American College of Physicians President-elect Jacqueline Winfield Fincher, M.D, MACP, and American Academy of Pediatrics President Sara H. Goza, M.D., FAAP. Thank you to Governor Brian Kemp who was extremely generous

of his time and listened to the issues important to physicians – tort reform, vaccines, surprise billing, rural healthcare and opioids. Please see the attached photograph. Also, Donna Lowry of Georgia Public Broadcasting Lawmakers interviewed Drs. Harris, Fincher and Goza. The interview can be found at <https://www.gpbnews.org/post/georgia-female-doctors-lead-charge-better-healthcare>. Thank you to Rick Ward for pulling this day together.

