Dear all:

I want to provide a brief update of MAG activities since the conclusion of the 2018 General Assembly. As always, my previous updates can be found at www.mag.org/executivedirector.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia
Please note we have updated our carousel page on the website demonstrating MAG’s leadership addressing various issues with BCBS for last ten (10) months. The information can be found at https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_encouraging_Georgians_to_act_on_BCBS_ER_policy_.aspx. Rest assured, we continue to work with national organizations to explore further alternatives to addressing these health insurer policies.

In addition, we worked closely with Representative David Knight on HB 872. HB 872 would allow patients to remain in network with their physicians and providers when a health insurer removes the physician and providers from the network during the duration of the patient’s health insurance contract period. MAG saw the impact on the patients over the last few years when the health insurers removed the physicians and providers during the contract negotiations. HB 872 is the solution and will remain a MAG priority for the future.

Maintenance of Certification
Just a reminder to take the survey from the American Board of Medical Specialties on the positives and negatives experiences you have with MOC. The survey can be found at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S5YLCN7. The survey will be used to address the problems associated with MOC.

Kaiser Permanente Addresses Health Care Rule
Kaiser Permanente and The Permanente Medical Group have submitted a letter to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to weigh in on a proposed rule that addresses “Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care.”

The letter notes that, “[The] Proposed Rule fails to acknowledge that conscience objections may conflict with patient rights and professional obligations and fails to suggest or even allow for acceptable practices that balance the rights of the workforce with the needs of patients. A Final Rule should interpret the statutory language to balance the conscience protections of the health care workforce with the needs and rights of patients.”

For more information, please go to https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/KP_Permanente_weighs_in_on_proposed_rule_on_HC_rights_.aspx.

HealtheParadigm
Please see the most recent newsletter from MAG’s HealtheParadigm – the health information exchange providing data analytics and a data repository. The newsletter can be found at https://www.healtheparadigm.com/News/HeP-MEMBER-NEWSLETTER.aspx.

Gubernatorial Candidates
In addition to Democrat candidates Stacey Abrams and Stacey Evans presenting at the MAG House of Delegates and Board of Directors meetings, please see the appearances of Republican candidates Casey
Cagle and Brian Kemp on the MAG Top Docs Radio shows -
https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/Resources/_Top_Docs_Radio__Recordings/Public/Resources/_Top_Docs__Radio__Recordings_.aspx?hkey=4b531c30-79a4-4750-8c4a-227a41375fbc.

MAG App
The MAG app is now available on Google Play and iTunes – just search Medical Association of Georgia. Please provide any feedback on the app to Mandi Milligan at mmilligan@mag.org.

MAG Legislative Summary
Please see the attached high-level MAG 2018 General Assembly Summary prepared on the health care bills with MAG positions.

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

Donald

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr. J.D. | Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer
Medical Association of Georgia
1849 The Exchange Suite 200 | Atlanta, Georgia 30339
678-303-9290 (Phone) | 404-312-9030 (Mobile)
dpalmisano@mag.org | www.mag.org

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