Dear all:

Please see the following update of MAG activities over the last few weeks. As always, my previous updates can be found at www.mag.org/executivedirector.

Surprise Billing – ACTION NEEDED
The House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Full Committee will mark up the “No Surprises Act” (H.R. 3630) Wednesday or Thursday. While we have concerns on the current payment methodology, we need to have an independent dispute resolution process included to protect physicians and patients.

Please contact Congressman Buddy Carter and ask that he advocate for the inclusion of independent dispute resolution language in the bill.

Congressman Carter can be reached at https://buddycarter.house.gov/contact/contactform.htm?zip5=31634&zip4=

Other News of Note

- **American Board of Medical Specialties**
  - The American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) has announced the members of the five Continuing Board Certification: Achieving the Vision Task Forces. With guidance from the recently named Oversight Committee, these Task Forces will work to implement key recommendations outlined by the Continuing Board Certification: Vision for the Future Commission (Commission) in its final report. I want to congratulate Dominick Mack, MD for being named to the Information and Data Sharing Task Force. Dr. Mack is a longtime MAG member and works closely with MAG on various technology issues. For more information, please go to https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/ABMS_names__Vision__task_force_members__including_MAG_s_CEO.aspx. Please note MAG will continue to have input as I was named the Stakeholder Liaison to the Remediation Task Force.

- **American Medical Association/MAG file Amicus Brief**
  - The American Medical Association (AMA) and 15 additional medical, mental health, nursing and other health care organizations filed a joint friend-of-the-court brief urging the Supreme Court of the United States to rule in favor of protecting transgender individuals from employment discrimination to ensure their physical and mental health. The brief was submitted in the cases of Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia, Altitude Express Inc. v. Zarda and R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes Inc. v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which consider whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protections against discrimination on the basis of “sex” include sexual orientation and gender identity. More information can be found at https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/AMA__MAG__others_file brief_to_protect_transgender_individuals.aspx.

- **MAG/MagMutual file Amicus Brief**
  - The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) recently filed an amicus brief in a key medical malpractice case that the Supreme Court of Georgia may consider. The case, Atlanta Women’s Specialists, LLC v. Trabue, resulted in a jury award of nearly $46 million in
damages. MAG is asserting that this case should be granted certiorari by the Supreme Court for two reasons: 1) the medical malpractice statute of repose provides absolute finality to the assertion of medical malpractice claims and 2) the policy behind the medical malpractice statute of repose prevents the Trabue plaintiffs from asserting a vicarious liability claim against AWS based on the conduct of Dr. Simonsen. For more information, please go to https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_files_amicus_brief_in_key_med-mal_case__.aspx.

- Top Docs Radio Show
  - The latest edition of the Medical Association of Georgia’s (MAG) ‘Top Docs Radio’ show addresses adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and “systemic empathy” – which is designed to integrate empathy into our health care experience/system to improve patient outcomes. It features Stan Sonu, M.D., M.P.H., an assistant professor of internal medicine, pediatrics, and preventative medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine and an associate program director for Emory’s Internal Medicine Residency Program. For more information, please go to https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Leading_M.D._addresses_adverse_childhood_experiences_on__Top_Docs_Radio_.aspx.

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

Donald

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