Dear all:

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

**Tort Reform**
Please see the latest MAG carousel page addressing the need for tort reform in Georgia. See how Georgia juries are consistently increasing jury awards. We have seen jury awards upwards of $18,000,000 and $30,000,000. This is significant when most physicians carry a $1 million policy. MAG and MagMutual are working together to address this issue for all physicians and patients. Our concern is if a solution is not found then patients will have access to care issues. For more information, please go to [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/Resources/MAG_Tort_Reform_Fund.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/Resources/MAG_Tort_Reform_Fund.aspx). Please see Dr. Joe Wilson’s interview on the tort climate for more information on solutions needed in Georgia - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MagMutual_leader_addresses_tort_climate_on_Top_Docs_Radio______.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MagMutual_leader_addresses_tort_climate_on_Top_Docs_Radio______.aspx).

**Surprise Billing**
MAG continues to take a leadership role on the surprise billing issue. The House of Representatives committees of jurisdiction will be holding hearings on addressing surprise billing in October. Towards that end, MAG released the following Top Docs Radio Show by radiology resident, Wells Yang, MD - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New__Top_Docs_Radio__episode_addressses_surprise_medical_bills_.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/New__Top_Docs_Radio__episode_addressses_surprise_medical_bills_.aspx). Dr. Yang did a fantastic job researching and presenting the issue.

Additionally, MAG continues to work through resources to address the issue. The Physicians Advocacy Institute (PAI) sent the following letter to the committees of jurisdiction - [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/New_Articles/PAI_weighs_in_on_New_York_surprise_billing_IDR_law_.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/New_Articles/PAI_weighs_in_on_New_York_surprise_billing_IDR_law_.aspx).

**Centene/Wellcare Merger**
MAG continues to work with the Georgia Pharmacy Association and GASCO in opposing the Centene/Wellcare merger. For more information, please go to [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG__GPA___GSCO_send_second_letter_opposing_Centene_WellCare_deal.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG__GPA___GSCO_send_second_letter_opposing_Centene_WellCare_deal.aspx).

**MAG Association Health Plan**
MAG is exploring the option to offer a health insurance plan for members. We would like you to complete a survey that will take less than five minutes to complete at [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Physicians_encouraged_to_weigh_in_on_MAG_health_plan__earn__10_for_MAG_Foundation.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/Physicians_encouraged_to_weigh_in_on_MAG_health_plan__earn__10_for_MAG_Foundation.aspx).

**Prior Authorization**
Please see the latest letter where MAG and organized medicine are requesting a streamlined process for prior authorization from CMS. More information can be found at [https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_calling_for_CMS_to_take_more_comprehensive_approach_to_PA_reform_.aspx](https://www.mag.org/georgia/Public/News/News_Articles/MAG_calling_for_CMS_to_take_more_comprehensive_approach_to_PA_reform_.aspx).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.