Dear all:

Please allow this to be an update of current MAG activities since our January Board of Directors meeting. As you know, this is the busiest time of year with the legislative session underway.

**Georgia General Assembly**

Congratulations to Marcus and Rebecca. SB 337, sponsored by Senator Greg Goggans, passed out of Senate Insurance and Labor Committee today. SB 337 ensures physician autonomy by prohibiting the state from tying medical licensure to a public or private payer product. This is great news as this bill now sits in Senate Rules. Please take a moment to thank Senator Goggans for sponsoring this bill at goggans@vzw.blackberry.net. Also, please thank the members of the Senate Insurance and Labor Committee for their support of this bill. The members of the committee can be found at [www.senate.ga.gov/committees/en-US/committee.aspx?Committee=78&Session=21](http://www.senate.ga.gov/committees/en-US/committee.aspx?Committee=78&Session=21). For weekly updates, please look for our *e-News from the Capitol*.

**Medicaid Redesign**

President Sandra Reed, M.D., has appointed a task force to study the Medicaid program and the Navigant report. Those on the committee include physicians from solo/small group practices (Sandra Reed, M.D., Scott Bohlke, M.D., John Harvey, M.D., Michael Greene, M.D.), large multispecialty groups (Longstreet Clinic, South Coast Medical Group, Permanente Medical Group), and health system employed physicians (Piedmont Physicians Group and GHSU). Also, we are working with the rural hospitals to see where our interests may overlap. This group is diverse from employment, region, as well as specialty. We will keep you updated as we study the report and prepare comments for the Department of Community Health. If you have any recommendations, please feel free to contact me or Cam Grayson at cgrayson@mag.org.

**Coalition of State Medical and National Specialty Societies**

Following the MAG Board of Directors meeting, Joe Bailey, M.D., Todd Williamson, M.D., and I traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with the American Medical Association for a briefing on their grassroots efforts to pass Congressman Tom Price’s Medicare Patient Empowerment Act. The MPEA “allows patients to use their current Medicare coverage to help cover the cost of seeing a non-Medicare doctor.” While we reviewed many documents being prepared for this grassroots campaign, an important website has been developed. Please go to [http://mymedicare-mychoice.org/](http://mymedicare-mychoice.org/) to sign the petition. Also, please see the most recent video prepared by the AMA requesting Congress fix the SGR - [http://youtu.be/51zAvnxoFvs](http://youtu.be/51zAvnxoFvs).

**Physician Advocacy Institute, Inc.**
MAG sits on the board of directors of the Physician Advocacy Institute, Inc. (PAI). PAI just released a white paper entitled **Medical Audits: What a Physician Needs to Know**. The white paper is password protected and only for MAG members. This white paper is a tool to help you address medical audits. Also, if you received a letter from a Medicare/Medicaid RAC and you are a MAG Mutual insured, check your policy as there may be a provision for advice and defense of these types of audits.

**Special message from Stan Sherman, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Directors**
In the next day or so, you will be receiving your e-newsletter recounting the board actions. Please bring the actions to your county medical society and specialty society meetings to keep all physicians up to date on MAG’s actions.

**Speaking Engagements**
As most of you know, we travel the state speaking to medical societies and anyone else who wants to hear our message. Most recently, we spoke to a medical student class at Georgia Health Science University (courtesy of Richard Pawl, M.D.) and the Georgia College of Emergency Physicians (courtesy of Matt Watson, M.D., John Rogers, M.D., and Tara Morrison). Please note that Matt Watson, M.D., and John Rogers, M.D., are graduates of the Georgia Physician Leadership Academy, a great program of the MAG Foundation.

Please let us know if you would like to hear from MAG. Wherever there is an audience, we will travel.

**As always, please feel free to forward this email.**

Donald

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