



August 20, 2020

Dear Members of the MAG House of Delegates,

I am seeking a position on our MAG delegation to the AMA.

There are a number of issues facing medicine today. These include physician burnout, the risk of malpractice suits and the emotional cost as well as physical costs of defending oneself in one of the suits, electronic medical records and their lack of relevance to patient care, the lack of control that we feel as physicians in taking care of our patients and establishing healthcare policy, fighting insurance companies for proper payment and clearance to order certain procedures and medications, opioids, and how to help Congress make better decisions when it comes to healthcare.

With National Healthcare at 18% of GDP, and Medicare at 14 % of the federal budget, our resources are extremely limited. We will have to spend less and provide better care. We cannot do this alone. The time has come for patient-centered reform that gives hope to the patients and their physicians. I am interested in trying to help our team help the AMA in this most difficult time.

I am an optimist and believe I can make a difference. In the past years, I have helped put together programs such as the Piedmont Stemi program, AED outreach for Atlanta and the Olympics in 1996, the Piedmont Heart Institute, and the Distracted Driving campaign these past years. This campaign has lowered mortality by 4% this past year! I would hope to take this momentum forward to work with our team to help solve some of the problems that lay before us. The COVID outbreak has only increased the need for our physicians to work in a national level with the AMA for better coordination of care for our patients.

Our patients, our families, and our colleagues are counting on us to make America better. GPLA helped me in so many ways to be a better leader in Georgia. I learned we have a committed group of physicians that work well together and enjoy a strong friendship. We have done well in Georgia and I will help carry this momentum forward to the AMA. I will do my best to honor each physician's input as we embrace the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Wilmer".

Charles Wilmer MD, FACC, FSCAI