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COALITION SPOKESMAN URGES CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TO GIVE PHYSICIANS, PATIENTS RIGHT TO CONTRACT AS SUSTAINABLE MEDICAL PAYMENT SOLUTION

ATLANTA – M. Todd Williamson, M.D., the immediate past president of the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) and the spokesman for the Coalition of State Medical and National Specialty Societies, told members of the U.S. House of Representatives Republican Health Care Solutions Group today that the nation needs to get back to the free market principles that have served as the foundation for the best medical care in the world.

“Our coalition believes that the ultimate and optimum solution for reforming our health care system is minimizing, not maximizing, government’s involvement in the practice of medicine and placing more control over medical decisions in the hands of patients,” Dr. Williamson stated. “Restoring the rights of patients and physicians to privately contract without penalty would go a long way to achieve this goal.”

He also said that, “Government bureaucrats and third party administrators tell Medicare patients what drugs they can take, what physical therapy is best, and how long they should stay in the hospital...most troubling is the fact that these same seniors are restricted in their right to pay for that care on their own if they so choose.”

And Dr. Williamson pointed out that just a few weeks after the health reform bill was enacted, physicians face a staggering 21 percent cut in Medicare payments. He said, “With the government controlling prices and no relief in sight, doctors are having to drop out of the Medicare system.”

Dr. Williamson concluded that, “We believe we can close the gap between government programs and the real cost of health care by restoring the patient’s right to privately contract with his or her physician using the patient’s individual circumstances as the baseline for that discussion.”

Along with MAG, the coalition includes the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Medical Society of Delaware, the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, the Florida Medical Association, the Kansas Medical Society, the Louisiana State Medical Society, the Medical Society of New Jersey, the South Carolina Medical Association, the Tennessee Medical Association, the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the American Society of General Surgeons, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. The groups collectively represent 80,000 physicians.

With more than 6,000 members, MAG is the leading voice for the medical profession in Georgia. Go to www.mag.org for more information. Also follow MAG on Twitter at www.twitter.com/MAG1849.

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