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Medical Association of Georgia

Building a Better State of Health Since 1849

July 3, 2018

Mr. William Melofchik
Legislative Director
National Council of Insurance Legislators
2317 Route 34, Suite 2B
Manasquan, New Jersey 08736

Dear Mr. Melofchik:

The Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) was founded in 1849 and currently represents over 7,800 Physicians representing every medical specialty.

MAG strongly opposes the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) “model bill” on physician dispensing.

MAG does not understand the need to effectively outlaw physician dispensing nor the rationale to allow a physician to dispense only when the injured worker is seen within 7 days of the injury and then only for a single 7 day fill.

Our pain management and orthopedic physicians regularly treat both acute and chronic pain and office dispensing is a practical way to insure patient compliance and recovery.

MAG was one of the state medical societies which argued for the successful passage of the following resolution at the meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA) at its annual meeting in Chicago last month. The final resolution – directed at NCOIL was amended to apply to **all** efforts to restrict physician dispensing – and reads as follows:

Physician Dispensing H-120.990 as amended

Our AMA supports the physician’s right to dispense drugs and devices when it is in the best interest of the patient and consistent with AMA’s ethical guidelines.

Our AMA oppose legislative and other efforts that are in conflict with AMA policies concerning patient access to physician-dispensed drugs and devices.

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Finally, MAG notes that no physicians, patients, union representatives or workers' compensation claimant attorneys were consulted in creating this "model bill." For this reason alone, this "model bill" is fatally deficient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "DJP", written in a cursive style.

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr.
Executive Director/CEO

DJP/dg