



P.O. Box 11188
Columbia, SC 29211
1-800-327-1021
803-772-6783 Fax
www.scmedical.org

Christopher A. Yeakel, MD
President
Helen Stockinger, MD
President-Elect
M. Mayes Dubose, MD
Treasurer
H. Timberlake Pearce, MD
Secretary
Henry F. Butehorn III, MD
Chairman of the Board
Richele Taylor
Chief Executive Officer and
Chief Legal Officer

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

South Carolina Medical Association Urges Congress to Support Increased Competition, Transparency in Health Care

South Carolina Medical Association made the following statement in support of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee hearing on transparency and competition.

South Carolina physicians commend the U.S. House of Representatives Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health for today's hearing to explore legislative solutions for increased competition, transparency, and choice in our health care system.

“Widespread consolidation of health care systems in South Carolina has been perpetuated by misguided policies that ultimately weaken access and affordability of physician-led patient care.

“Patient-centered healthcare demands that South Carolina's patients have the ability to make their own decisions – based on quality and cost of service – about who directs their care and where they receive it. Success requires both competition and transparency, neither of which exists today. Supporting H.R. 977 will end the misguided federal policy restricting physicians from owning and operating hospitals. Lifting this moratorium will allow physicians to invest in their communities and offer South Carolinians the choice and privilege of physician-directed care.

“Increasing competition and transparency also necessitates site neutral payment policies to ensure that South Carolinians receive care in the most efficient, cost-effective setting, which is often the physician's office. Medicare's payment disparity favoring services delivered in a hospital-owned setting, coupled with inadequate Medicare physician payment updates to adjust for inflation, have made it difficult for many physicians to sustain their practices.

South Carolina's physicians support legislation that stands up for physician-led health care, giving patients lower costs, higher quality and more choice in their care.”

###

The South Carolina Medical Association is the only membership organization in South Carolina that represents physicians of all specialties and geographic locations. The SCMA is the voice for South Carolina physicians. SCMA has a constant presence at the South Carolina State House and SCMA staff works methodically to guide SCMA members through statewide issues affecting the practice of medicine.