

Media Statement

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Physician Groups Strengthen Political Presence in Washington DC
Determined to Advance National Policy on Coordinated Care

Washington, DC – The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG), representing physician groups and their affiliates in 22 states, today announced the opening of its Washington DC office and the hiring of Mara B. McDermott as its Director of Federal Affairs.

According to CAPG, the action comes at a critical time to ensure that the principles of coordinated and accountable care for patients become and remain a priority for the Administration, Congress, and federal regulators.

“Physicians across the country are very concerned that the Accountable Care Act provisions moving our healthcare system toward coordinated, accountable and patient-centered care will be diluted if we’re not on the ground in Washington aggressively fighting for them, said Donald H. Crane, president and CEO of CAPG.

“We represent physician groups in almost half of the states in the country and applaud the proliferation of coordinated and accountable health care based on prospective payments to providers. This creates the right incentives for providers to be proactive in promoting population health and delivering the right care at the right time – the very model that our members have been employing for years, said Crane.

“Mara is one of the most innovative and effective young minds on the health care scene today. Adding her to our federal team reflects how vigorously we intend to engage with policy makers in our mission to proliferate coordinated care across the country.”

Mara McDermott is a former counselor with the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, where she specialized in Medicare regulatory issues and health care delivery system models including accountable care organizations (ACO) and other value-based purchasing initiatives.

Prior to that, Mara worked in the Health Policy department at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. In 2007, Ms. McDermott received the ABA-BNA Award for Excellence in the Study of Health Law. Mara is a participant in the Physician Organizations Leadership Development program of the American Health Lawyers Association, and is a regular speaker on the legal and regulatory perspectives of accountable care organizations.

CAPG’s Washington DC office is located at 601 13th Street NW, Suite 650.

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About CAPG

The California Association of Physician Groups (CAPG) currently represents groups in 20 states including Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. In California, CAPG members include groups that employ or contract with nearly 60,000 California doctors and provide care to 18 million Californians.

CAPG is committed to improving healthcare for Californians and supports a progressive and organized system of healthcare delivery, which focuses on coordinated treatment plans and comprehensive coverage, including the most current preventive services and exams. This allows physicians to focus on illness prevention and proactive management of patients in order to maintain their optimum level of health. www.capg.org.