



Defining Your Profession™

Medical Group Management Association

February 19, 2010

Bobbie Beard, MHA  
President  
MGMA Mississippi  
PO Box 186  
Sumrall MS 39482

Dear Ms. Beard:

I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 15, 2009. I certainly recognize that there is considerable difference of opinion among MGMA members about healthcare reform, and I respect the right of MGMA Mississippi to take a position which differs from that taken by national MGMA.

I am a bit surprised, however, at your opposition "to any kind of government run program." As I'm sure you know, some 10-12 million Americans receive their healthcare in government-owned and operated hospitals, provided by government employees. Those groups --- active duty military and veterans, primarily --- receive good care and are generally very satisfied. Another 80 million Americans receive care that is paid for by the government, but provided by private physicians and other workers in private hospitals. Those people, of course, are Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

Almost all MGMA members participate in Medicare and/or Medicaid. In many practices, those government-run programs account for 40%-50% of total revenues. Interestingly, recent research among MGMA members showed that Medicare was ranked highest in satisfaction with their administrative processes in comparison with seven national private insurance plans. Clearly, "government run healthcare" is working well for almost a third of our citizens, and Medicare is viewed very favorably by MGMA members.

Thank you for sharing the MGMA Mississippi point of view. I would encourage you to continue to make your opinions known to our Washington office staff.

Sincerely,

William F. Jessee, MD, FACMPE  
President and CEO

cc: Patrick Smith  
Anders Gilberg  
Allison Brown

**Headquarters**

104 Inverness Terrace East  
Englewood, CO 80112-5306  
toll-free: 877.275.6462  
phone: 303.799.1111  
fax: 303.643.4439

**Government Affairs**

1717 Pennsylvania Avenue  
North West, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20006  
phone: 202.293.3450  
fax: 202.293.2787