

Georgia Association of Pathology



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 - 2023

OFFICERS

President

Lara Harik, MD
Emory University School of Medicine

Secretary/Treasurer

Keith A. Stevens, MD
St. Joseph's/Candler Health System

Past President

Dean W. Joelson, MD
Piedmont Healthcare

Board Members

David Cohen, MD
South Suburban Pathologist

Patrick E. Godbey, MD, FCAP
College of American Pathologists

Zaid Mahdi, Dm, PhD
Emory University School of Medicine

Claudia Ormenisan-Gherasim
Northeast Georgia Medical Center

Nikhil Patel, MD

Faisal Saeed, MD
Emory University Hospital Midtown

Natasha Savage, MD, FCAP
Augusta University Medical Center

Qun Wang, MD, PhD
Emory University

Resident Representative

A. Sarah Erem, MD
Emory University Residency

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Associate Director
Brittany Beissel

1100 E Woodfield Rd, Ste 350
Schaumburg, IL 60173
Phone: (847) 517-7225
Fax: (847) 517-7229
gap@wjweiser.com

February 1, 2023

Via email: kay.kirkpatrick@senate.ga.gov

Senator Kay Kirkpatrick
324-A CLOB
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Support for Senate Bill 20 (Health Plan Network Adequacy)

Dear Senator Kirkpatrick:

The Georgia Association of Pathologists (GAP), with the collaboration of the College of American Pathologists (CAP), strongly supports Senate Bill 20, which requires health plan network adequacy, including adequate enrollee access to clinical laboratory services "to ensure covered persons have access to the full scope of benefits and services covered under such plan."

The GAP and the CAP believe that ensuring health plan network adequacy is indispensable to providing patients with in-network physician services, including pathology and clinical laboratory services. Pathology and clinical laboratory services are integral to patient diagnosis and treatment, and the failure of any health plan to adequately contract for those services, and provide enrollees with geographic and timely access, should be scrutinized, and monitored by the Insurance Department, as required under the legislation.

Both CAP and GAP believe that health plans that do not adequately contract for clinical laboratory and pathology services should not be allowed to market such services or facilities where such services are provided, as "in-network" services or facilities. A health plan that does not have these services under contract for its enrollees is fundamentally deficient and may result in harm to Georgia patients.

We strongly support the public policy intention and the requirements imposed upon health plans as delineated in Senate Bill 20. Thank you for your consideration and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,


Lara Rabih Harik, MD, FCAP
President, Georgia Association of Pathologists

cc: Bethany Sherrer, Medical Association of Georgia
Barry Ziman, College of American Pathologists