# STATE-MENT

## MONTHLY STATE TRACKER UPDATE

**APRIL 2018**

**Sung-Won Kim, MD, of the NWOA (far right) attends Governor Inslee's bill signing ceremony for successfully including otolaryngologists in a hearing aid coverage bill.**

## Issues of Interest

- **Connecticut:** Initiated by the state's ophthalmology, urology, and ENT societies, SB 402 is a Truth in Advertising (TIA) bill. The Public Health Committee reported the bill favorably, whereby it was submitted to the Legislative Commissioners' Office (LCO). The LCO has reported it favorably and, as of press time, it has been tabled for the Senate Calendar.
- **Minnesota**: The AAO-HNS and the Minnesota Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS (MAO-HNS) sent a joint letter of support to the sponsor of HF 2653, a proposed act to require the Commissioner of Health to make available information about herpesvirus cytomegalovirus (CMV) to healthcare practitioners, pregnant women, and women who may become pregnant. The bill was adopted in the state's House Finance Committee and was recently added to the House omnibus appropriations bill. A House/Senate conference committee is likely.
- **New York:** The Governor's budget proposal contained language which would permit CRNAs to administer anesthesia without a physician present. Advocacy by physicians, including NYSSA and NYSSO-HNS, resulted in removal of the language by the legislature and, in the end, by the Governor.
- **Oklahoma:** Moving rapidly through the legislature, SB 1074 – a bill to modify the speech-language pathology and audiology licensing act – raised concerns. The Oklahoma State Trackers and the Oklahoma Academy of Otolaryngology (OAO) have been working with the Oklahoma State Medical Association and the AAO-HNS to request amendments to the bill.

**Tracker Monthly Calls:**

**Welcome to all of our new State Trackers. We invite you to participate in our remaining conference calls for 2018. The calls begin at 8 pm ET and all Trackers are sent a reminder prior to the call. Please join us:**

- **April 25**
- **May 23**
- **June 27**

**2018 State Legislative Sessions**

- **10 states will adjourn in April: Alabama, Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Tennessee.**
- **North Carolina's session opens on April 23.**
- **Virginia reconvened in Special Session, April 11, focusing on its budget.**