



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

February 2, 2018

Legislative and political activity directly affects our practices and our patients. As a leading advocate for otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of The ENT Advocate, your premier source of advocacy information for the specialty!

Lead Story

Alex Azar Sworn in as Secretary of HHS

Alex Azar was sworn in as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on January 29, just one week after being confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Prior to his nomination, Azar led the U.S. Pharmaceutical Division of Eli Lilly and served as a Deputy Secretary at HHS during the George W. Bush Administration. The AAO-HNS looks forward to working with Secretary Azar to advance the specialty's advocacy priorities.

Action Requested

2018 Advocacy in Action

The AAO-HNS grassroots programs are in full swing. Help us strengthen our various advocacy programs as we prepare for a busy 2018. Sign up for [PROJECT 535](#) and/or the [State Trackers](#) program today! Questions? Contact govtaffairs@entnet.org

Legislative & Political Reports

President Trump Delivers State of the Union Address

President Trump [delivered the annual State of the Union](#) address to Congress and the nation on January 30. The President concluded his first address with little mention of healthcare issues, instead focusing on other domestic policy issues and accomplishments.

Brenda Fitzgerald Resigns as Director of CDC

Brenda Fitzgerald [resigned as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) on January 31, due to unresolved financial conflicts of interest. Until a permanent replacement is named, [Anne Schuchat, MD](#), has assumed the role as Interim Director of the CDC. AAO-HNS will continue to monitor and provide pertinent updates as information become available.

U.S. House Subcommittee Convenes Hearing on Compounding

The U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health recently [convened a hearing](#) examining the implementation of the Drug Quality and Safety Act. The subcommittee heard testimony from a range of stakeholders, including physicians representing the Academies of Dermatology and Ophthalmology, as well as from FDA Commissioner, Scott Gottlieb, MD, who provided the subcommittee with an overview of the Agency's compounding program. The AAO-HNS Advocacy team is closely monitoring regulatory and legislative efforts on in-office drug compounding and its impact on the specialty.

Other News

AAO-HNS Signs Surgical Coalition Letter to MedPAC

The AAO-HNS joined 20 surgical organizations in [sending a letter](#) to James Matthews, MD, Chair of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC), expressing concerns about rebalancing the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS) toward primary care services. Additionally, the letter asserts that MedPAC's underlying assumptions about an imbalance in the MPFS are incorrect.

AAO-HNS Sends Letter to FSMB on Compounded Medications

On January 26, the AAO-HNS [sent a letter](#) to the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) on its revised draft position of “Compounding of Medications by Physicians” that included changes highlighting the role and need for in-office compounding by physicians. The AAO-HNS supported the American Medical Association’s concerns regarding the perceived openness by FSMB to state pharmacy board regulation of compounding and urged postponement of the final FSMB position statement until the FDA and U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) have completed their work on physician in-office drug compounding regulations.

Register and Book Your Housing for the AAO-HNS/F 2018 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring Meeting

Make plans to attend the [AAO-HNS/F 2018 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring Meeting](#), March 9-12, in Alexandria, VA. Join your colleagues for leadership development and mentoring opportunities, networking events with Academy leaders (including the fun-filled ENT PAC reception at TopGolf), BOG committee meetings, state society engagement discussions and tips, advocacy updates, and much more. Registration is complimentary to AAO-HNS members who are otolaryngology practitioners; however, you must register by March 2 to attend.



AAO-HNS/F 2018
**LEADERSHIP FORUM
& BOG SPRING MEETING**

**MARCH
9-12**
ALEXANDRIA, VA

Sincerely,
Susan R. Cordes, MD
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
and the AAO-HNS Legislative Advocacy Team

For more information, contact govtaffairs@entnet.org. Don't forget to bookmark *The ENT Advocate!*

If you no longer wish to receive important legislative and political updates via *The ENT Advocate*, please reply to this email with CANCEL ADVOCATE in the subject line.

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