



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

March 5, 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



ENT PAC Hosts Event for U.S. Speaker of the House

On February 28, the AAO-HNS hosted (via [ENT PAC](#)) a physician community event for U.S. House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-WI). Representatives from more than 20 physician/medical specialty groups attended and participated in a robust policy discussion with the Speaker. Many thanks to our ENT PAC Investors who enabled our specialty to have a “seat at the table” with Speaker Ryan.

Action Requested

Visit the Advocacy Tables at the 2018 Leadership Forum!

Visit the Advocacy tables at the [2018 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring Meeting](#) to learn more about the Academy's various advocacy-related initiatives and grassroots programs. You can also make your 2018 [ENT PAC contribution](#) of \$365+ (or \$100 for Residents) before Saturday night's reception at Top Golf!*

February 2018 Edition of the State-mENT Now Available

[The State-mENT](#) is an “at a glance” one-page resource outlining the Academy's state legislative activity from the previous month. Sign up as a [State Tracker](#) and become part of the discussion!

Legislative & Political Reports

Advocacy Win: Proposed Cuts to Medicare Physician Payments Defeated

Thanks to the quick action of our members and the advocacy efforts of the AAO-HNS and other physician groups, an [SGR-like proposal](#) relating to “mis-valued codes” was removed from a Congressional spending bill. If enacted, the extension of the codes would have resulted in substantial cuts to Medicare physician payments.

AAO-HNS Supports Congressional Resolution Recognizing World Hearing Day

The AAO-HNS joined others in the hearing health community to draft a [Congressional Resolution introduced by U.S. Representatives David McKinley \(R-WV\) and Mike Thompson \(D-CA\)](#), Co-Chairs of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus, designating March 3 as World Hearing Day. The Resolution underscores the importance of hearing loss prevention, highlights the significance of patient access to early detection and intervention, and recognizes the role otolaryngologists serve on the hearing healthcare team.

ENT PAC Reached "First 50" Goal!

Thanks to the [generous contributions of our members](#), ENT PAC met its goal of garnering at least 50 \$1,000+

contributions during the annual “First 50” campaign in January! “First 50” Investors will be invited to participate in an exclusive conference call series with key policymakers, starting this spring.

Other News

Advocacy Win: Anthem Rescinds Modifier 25 Reduction

Thanks to coordinated, sustained efforts by the AAO-HNS, our members, and others in the House of Medicine, [Anthem has rescinded its policy](#) across its entire network relating to the Modifier 25 reduction. This advocacy win for the physician community is a great example of how multiple stakeholders using complementary approaches can effect change.

Save the Date: FDA Sleep Devices Workshop

On April 16, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will [convene a public workshop](#) at its Silver Spring, MD, campus regarding the regulation of medical devices for sleep disordered breathing. The AAO-HNS has had a significant role in the planning of the workshop and will be a major participant on the panels. Limited spots will be available to attend the workshop in person or via webinar. Watch for more details regarding registration in upcoming issues of *OTO News*.

Apply Now! CMS Study on Burdens Associated with Reporting Quality Measures

Many clinicians have expressed concerns about the challenges associated with Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) reporting. In response to these concerns, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is launching a study on the [Burdens Associated with Reporting Quality Measures in 2018](#). With this study, CMS seeks to learn more about clinician workflows, increase its understanding of the challenges in data collection and quality reporting, and recommend changes to lower the reporting burden.

Quality Payment Program Year Two Brochure Now Available!

The AAO-HNS has developed an [updated brochure](#) on the Quality Payment Program (QPP) for year two. The new brochure focuses primarily on changes to MIPS, as most AAO-HNS members will participate in the QPP via MIPS. Find out if MIPS applies to you and learn about QPP changes for 2018!



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.

*Contributions to ENT PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions are voluntary, and all members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits ENT PAC from accepting contributions from foreign nationals. By law, if your contributions are made using a personal check or credit card, ENT PAC may use your contribution only to support candidates in federal elections. All corporate contributions to ENT PAC will be used for educational and administrative fees of ENT PAC, and other activities permissible under federal law. Federal law requires ENT PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and the name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

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