



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

April 6, 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

### Audiology Direct Access Legislation Introduced in U.S. Senate

The Audiology Patient Choice Act ([S. 2575](#)) was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Rand Paul, MD (R-KY). If enacted, S. 2575 would 1) provide audiologists with unlimited direct access to Medicare patients without a physician referral, and 2) inappropriately add “audiologist” to Medicare’s definition of a physician. S. 2575 is the companion bill to the audiology direct access/physician status legislation introduced last year in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 2276). More than 130 national, state, and local medical societies, including the AAO-HNS, have [opposed this effort in the House](#), and the AAO-HNS will again spearhead opposition efforts by coordinating a physician community sign-on letter opposing S. 2575.

## Action Requested

### Call to Action: Tell Your U.S. Senators to Oppose Audiology Direct Access Legislation

As part of the Academy’s overall opposition efforts to S. 2575, an updated “Call to Action” alert is available for AAO-HNS members to send a pre-written email to their U.S. Senators regarding the bill. Be an advocate for the specialty and your patients by [sending a message](#) to your U.S. Senators today!

### Call for Applications: AMA House of Delegates Representative

The AAO-HNS is accepting applications from U.S. Academy members interested in serving on the Academy’s Delegation to the American Medical Association’s (AMA) House of Delegates. Applicants must be current members of the AAO-HNS and the AMA with an interest in legislative, regulatory, and payer advocacy. [Applications are due April 25.](#)

## Legislative & Political Reports



### Advocacy Win: Washington State Hearing Aid Bill

The Washington State Trackers and the Northwest Academy of Otolaryngology were successful in amending a bill (SB 5179) to include otolaryngologists in the list of providers covered under the state’s public employee and Medicaid programs for hearing aid services. AAO-HNS member Sung-Won Kim, MD, (far right in picture) was present at Governor Jay Inslee’s bill signing ceremony for SB 5179. Read the AAO-HNS support letter [here](#).

### State Advocacy in Action

March was a busy month for the Academy’s state advocacy programs! In addition to the “win” in Washington, the AAO-HNS signed onto a coalition letter regarding Connecticut’s SB 402, a truth in advertising (TIA) bill. In addition, with the assistance from [AAO-HNS State Trackers](#) and OTO State Societies, the Academy worked on issues in

California, Tennessee, and New York. Read about these efforts and more in the [March 2018 edition of the State-mENT](#), available now. AAO-HNS members are urged to sign up as a [State Tracker](#) and become part of the discussion!

### ENT PAC Exceeds Goal at 2018 Leadership Forum

Thanks to the generous contributions of our members, ENT PAC exceeded its fundraising goal at the AAO-HNS/F 2018 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring meeting, raising over \$17,000. To help ensure the strength of the Academy's political programs, especially as the AAO-HNS fights scope of practice battles on the federal level, [make your 2018 ENT PAC investment today!](#)\*

### Other News

#### Patient Advocacy Win: UHC Hearing Aids and Devices Medical Policy

In response to [AAO-HNS comments](#) submitted to United Healthcare (UHC), the insurer has revised its [coverage rationale](#) for implantable bone-anchored hearing aids for sensorineural hearing loss.

#### Join AAO-HNS at the FDA Sleep Devices Workshop April 16

AAO-HNS experts will represent the specialty on all panels of the FDA's April 16 workshop regarding the regulation of medical devices for sleep disordered breathing in adults. Attend in-person with other clinicians, patients, device manufacturers, and stakeholders by [registering through April 9](#). If you are unable to attend in-person, you can still follow this important discussion via webcast.

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

For more information, contact [govtaffairs@entnet.org](mailto: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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