



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

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

### Academy Launches New ENT PAC Website

Interested in learning more about the Academy's political advocacy efforts? Visit the re-designed ENT PAC website, your new "go-to" resource for AAO-HNS-related legislative and political news. The updated site houses information about various ENT PAC campaigns, current and past Investor lists, federal legislative priorities, which federal lawmakers receive ENT PAC support, and much more! Login to [www.entpac.org](http://www.entpac.org) using your AAO-HNS ID and password to explore this new member benefit.

### AAO-HNS Attends Roundtable Meeting with HHS Secretary Price

On March 1, AAO-HNS EVP/CEO James C. Denneny III, MD, attended a meeting with the new Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), Tom Price, MD. Discussion topics included the Affordable Care Act, the Quality Payment Program (MIPS/APMs), and other health-related priorities for the year. The AAO-HNS looks forward to working with Secretary Price to establish positive solutions for many of the issues affecting our members, their practices, and their patients.

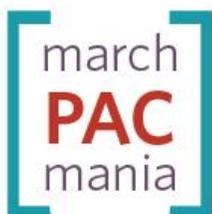
## Action Requested

### PROJECT 535 Makes the Specialty's Voice Heard on Capitol Hill

Only two full months into the 115th Congress and PROJECT 535 participants are already making an impact! In addition to offering themselves as a healthcare resource for their assigned Member(s) of Congress, PROJECT 535 participants have urged their lawmakers via phone and email to support legislation repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). Help is still needed to reach 100 percent coverage of [Members of Congress](#) who are in leadership and/or sit on one of four "A" Committees, which have jurisdiction for health-related issues. If one of these Members of Congress is your Representative or Senator, [sign up today](#) to be a key contact via PROJECT 535! Contact [legfederal@entnet.org](mailto:legfederal@entnet.org) for more information.

### Legislative Action Alert: Urge Your Federal Lawmakers to Support IPAB Repeal!

In February, U.S. Representative Phil Roe, MD (R-TN) and Senator John Cornyn (T-TX) reintroduced the "Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017." This important legislation (H.R. 849/S. 260) would repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) and help ensure important healthcare coverage and payment decisions are not made by 15 unelected individuals with broad authority and virtually no Congressional oversight. The [AAO-HNS strongly supports](#) repeal of the IPAB and encourages all members to send a [customized email](#) to their federal lawmaker(s) urging them to co-sponsor H.R. 849/S. 260!



### ATTENTION Residents: ENT PAC Launches SRF March Mania Bracket Challenge

Launched on March 1, this exciting new campaign is designed to promote SRF ENT PAC involvement by mirroring the well-known NCAA "March Madness" basketball tournament. To create the [bracket-style](#) campaign, ENT residency training programs have been organized by state and assigned to one of three groups depending on the total number of residents. The states in each group will compete against each other in three rounds throughout the month of March. At the end of each round, states will move forward based on donations and

submission of 10-second “Why I give to ENT PAC” videos. Make your contribution today at [www.entpac.org](http://www.entpac.org) and/or contact PAC staff at [entpac@entnet.org](mailto:entpac@entnet.org) to learn how to submit your video.

## Legislative & Political Reports

### AAO-HNS Joins Healthcare Stakeholders in Opposing H.R. 564

The AAO-HNS joined 42 health-related organizations in [signing a letter](#) opposing the “Traditional Cigar Manufacturing and Small Business Jobs Preservation Act” (H.R. 564). The bill would exempt traditional large and premium cigars from FDA oversight, undermining current science-based processes. The coalition argues that FDA should maintain its oversight authority over all tobacco products, including cigars.

### Medical Liability Reform Legislation Passes House Judiciary Committee

On February 28, the U.S. House Judiciary Committee passed the “Protecting Access to Care Act” (H.R. 1215). If enacted, H.R. 1215 would help ensure physicians can provide vital — and affordable — medical services to all patients without the threat of meritless lawsuits. [The AAO-HNS supported](#) the advancement of H.R. 1215 and will continue to monitor its progress.

## Other News



AAO-HNS/F 2017  
**LEADERSHIP FORUM  
& BOG SPRING MEETING**

**MARCH  
10-13**  
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](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.*

American Academy of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery  
1650 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA 22314-2857  
Phone: 1-703-836-8444 | Fax: 1-703-683-5100