



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

January 11, 2019

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 Launches Annual "First 50" Campaign



Start the new year off right by becoming a 2019 "First 50" ENT PAC Investor! The First 50 campaign is underway, and AAO-HNS members have until January 31 to participate in this fundraising effort to garner at least **50 \$1,000+** (Chairman's Club or Leadership Club) contributions during the month of January. As we prepare for a new Congress and another year of healthcare-related legislative priorities, participating in the First 50 campaign will help ensure the Academy's ability to actively engage on issues critical to the specialty. **First 50 contributors will have exclusive access to a 2019 conference call series with high-ranking individuals from Congress or the Administration.** Help us fill in the "First 50" logo [by making your 2019 Chairman's Club \(\\$1,000\) or Leadership Club \(\\$2,500+\) contribution to ENT PAC today.](#)* If you have questions or would like additional information, contact ENT PAC staff at entpac@entnet.org.

Action Requested

State Legislatures = Action

The new year has begun, and the majority of state assemblies will commence their sessions within the first two weeks of January. To review the specific start date for your state, please access the calendar at [2019 State Legislative Session Dates](#). This year all 50 states will be holding sessions, with only New Jersey and Virginia carrying over bills from last year. Therefore, many new bills – nearly 150,000 – will be introduced across the nation. With the help of our physician volunteer [State Trackers](#), the AAO-HNS will track bills on issues including scope of practice, hearing aid dispensing and coverage, prior authorization, MOC, as well as other topics impacting the specialty. We are always looking for AAO-HNS members who wish to actively protect their profession, patients, and practices from legislative surprises while promoting the specialty with state legislators. Interested in volunteering? It's not too late. Please contact legstate@entnet.org for more information!

Strengthening PROJECT 535

Given the ambitious legislative agenda developed by Congressional leadership for the 116th Congress, it's more important than ever for the Academy to strengthen its "key contacts" network via PROJECT 535. In addition to the Academy's overall advocacy efforts, PROJECT 535 volunteers help reinforce our message by establishing one-to-one relationships with federal elected officials. This additional element of constituent-based outreach amplifies our advocacy efforts when Congress debates major issues. The commitment is minimal, but the impact is immense. To help further strengthen our collective advocacy efforts, [sign up](#) today or contact legfederal@entnet.org for more information.

Legislative & Political Reports

The 116th Congress Convenes

The first session of the 116th U.S. Congress convened on January 3, with more than 100 new federal legislators sworn in. The balance of power has shifted slightly, as Democrats will have a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives while Republicans expanded their majority in the U.S. Senate. The AAO-HNS is currently meeting with new lawmakers to help educate them on the specialty's [legislative priorities](#). As bills start to be introduced on Capitol Hill, watch for opportunities in the near future to contact your Congressional representatives and make your voice heard!

ICYMI: Introducing "Your PAC Dollars at Work"

In an effort to provide more transparency and a greater understanding about how decisions are made regarding the specialty's political action committee, ENT PAC launched a new report entitled *Your PAC Dollars at Work*. ENT PAC is an invaluable tool which emboldens the Academy's overall legislative advocacy efforts. *Your PAC Dollars at Work*, which will be distributed quarterly, details how your support is being used to advance the Academy's political priorities on Capitol Hill. [Click here](#) to view the latest edition summarizing ENT PAC activities in 2018.

Other News

AAO-HNS Comments on CY 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

On December 31, the AAO-HNS submitted a [comment letter](#) on the CY 2019 PFS Final Rule thanking CMS for implementing multiple policy changes positively impacting the specialty. The Academy's comments to the agency focused on the following issue areas: 1) application of MPPR to E/M services and E/M code collapse; 2) QCDR measure licensing requirements; 3) allergy vial pricing and practice expense impact; and 4) balloon sinus surgery kits.

Register Now for #BOGMTG19

Join your colleagues at the [AAO-HNS/F 2019 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring Meeting](#), April 26-28, in Alexandria, VA, for leadership development and mentoring opportunities, networking events with Academy leaders, BOG committee meetings, state society engagement discussions and tips, and much more. Registration is complimentary to AAO-HNS members who are otolaryngology practitioners; however, you must register to attend.

Deadline Approaching: 2019 Health Policy Scholarship

The AAO-HNS and the American College of Surgeons (ACS) are [offering an annual scholarship](#) to subsidize attendance and participation in the Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management at Brandeis University. The course is scheduled for June 2-8. The award is open to surgeons who are members in good standing of both the AAO-HNS and the ACS. The deadline to apply is February 1.

Looking for More? Check Out the Recent Advocacy Articles in the *Bulletin*!

- [New Faces on Capitol Hill, But Same Partisan Obstacles](#)
- [Taking ENT PAC to the MAX](#)
- [Looking Ahead: State Advocacy in 2019](#)
- [Advocacy in Action: CMS Heeds AAO-HNS Concerns on 2019 Physician Fee Schedule](#)

Sincerely,

David Boisoneau, MD
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
and the AAO-HNS 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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