



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

November 3, 2017

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

### AAO-HNS Spearheads Efforts to Support Federal "Truth in Advertising" Legislation

The AAO-HNS spearheaded a [sign-on letter](#) in support of H.R. 3928, the "Truth in Healthcare Marketing Act of 2017." The letter, which garnered 18 signatories from the physician community, was shared with all members of the U.S. House of Representatives on October 24.

## Action Requested

### Help Us Finish Strong...Make Your 2017 Contribution to ENT PAC!

With yet another critical election season on the horizon, now is the time to strengthen our ENT PAC coffers! Your immediate contribution will help amplify the specialty's collective voice and impact on Capitol Hill and ensure the election of pro-otolaryngology incumbents and candidates. [Click here](#) to make your donation today!\*

### Successful Advocacy Starts with You!

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 layer of constituent-based outreach helps to amplify our position when Congress debates major issues. Make your voice heard about the issues impacting the specialty by [signing up](#) for PROJECT 535! For more information, please contact [govtaffairs@entnet.org](mailto:govtaffairs@entnet.org).

### Preparations Underway for 2018 State Legislative Sessions-Volunteers Still Needed!

The AAO-HNS [State Tracker program](#) has grown to include more than 130 volunteers covering 43 states. However, more volunteers are needed, especially in Alaska, Idaho, Mississippi, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Utah. No experience with state legislatures? Not a problem! The Academy's staff will be there to guide you through the process. Contact [legstate@entnet.org](mailto:legstate@entnet.org) to sign up or learn more!

## Legislative & Political Reports

### U.S. House Votes to Repeal IPAB

On November 2, the U.S. House of Representatives passed (307-111) legislation (H.R. 849) to repeal the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). Established by the Affordable Care Act, the IPAB is charged with creating or modifying Medicare payment policy, thereby usurping the rightful authority of Congress. The AAO-HNS is a [strong supporter](#) of IPAB repeal, and will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure passage of similar legislation in the U.S. Senate.

### AAO-HNS and Stakeholders Advocate on Tobacco Issues

As a member of the tobacco issue-focused "PARTNERS Coalition," the AAO-HNS signed onto an [October 30 letter](#) addressed to Congressional leadership and appropriators requesting they reject advancement of policy riders in FY 2018 Appropriations bills that would weaken the FDA's authority to oversee tobacco products. The Coalition also outlined opposition to the proposed \$50 million funding cut to the CDC's Office of Smoking and Health, which plays a critical role in tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.

## President Signs EHDI Reauthorization into Law

The President [signed into law](#) the “Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act” (S. 652) on October 18, reauthorizing the EHDI program for five years. A special thanks to those members who acted on our legislative “calls to action” over the last several months and helped communicate our message to Congress!

## Other News

### Advocacy Resources Available to BOG State Societies

Staff from the AAO-HNS Advocacy team recently attended the Arizona Society of Otolaryngology’s fall meeting in Phoenix, AZ, to brief attendees on the Academy’s legislative and political efforts. In addition, staff provided an overview of ongoing grassroots efforts and outlined opportunities for otolaryngologists to become more involved. Interested? There are several advocacy-related resources readily available for BOG State Societies, including: a slide deck highlighting key AAO-HNS grassroots programs (which can be customized for your state); legislative and/or health policy-related advocacy handouts; and the potential option to have Academy staff attend a meeting and/or host a booth at your next state society meeting. Contact [govtaffairs@entnet.org](mailto:govtaffairs@entnet.org) for more information!

### Apply Today! Health Policy Scholarship Deadline is February 1, 2018

Applications are open for the annual Brandeis American College of Surgeons-AAO-HNS [Health Policy Scholarship](#). The scholarship recipient will receive a subsidy to participate in the world-class Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management at Brandeis University. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2018.

### Update: CMS Global Surgery Data Reporting Requirements

CMS is [collecting data on post-operative care](#) following procedures with 10- and 90-day global periods. In an ongoing effort to provide input on data collection efforts by the CMS contractor, RAND Corporation (RAND), the AAO-HNS recently expressed concerns that a proposed physician survey only captures a “snapshot” in time. The Academy also signed onto a [Surgical Coalition letter](#) that strongly opposes using the draft survey and urges RAND to impose the least amount of burden on providers in the revised survey.



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](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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