



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

February 1, 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

"First 50" Extended—Monthly Payment Option Available

We are so close! Help us reach our goal of garnering 50 \$1,000+ contributions to [ENT PAC—the specialty's political action committee](#). "First 50 Investors" will have *exclusive access* to a conference call series with high-ranking officials from Congress and the Administration, as well as help ENT PAC start strong for 2019. Make or increase your 2019 ENT PAC contribution by **Friday, February 8**, to join the prestigious ranks of our "First 50" ENT PAC Investors. **Unable to donate \$1,000+ today? Please consider a monthly recurring donation of \$83.34!*** Questions? Contact entpac@entnet.org.

Action Requested

State Trackers in Action

The Academy's [State Trackers](#) are fully engaged in the 2019 state legislative session, identifying bills covering a wide array of issues, including scope of practice, hearing aid dispensing and coverage, prior authorization, MOC, as well as other topics impacting the specialty. Are you interested in joining the 140+ AAO-HNS members volunteering as State Trackers? Ensure your state is protected from any legislative surprises by signing up today! Contact legstate@entnet.org for more information.

Invite Your Federal Representative to Join the CHHC!

With the 116th Congress in full swing, now is a great time to introduce your U.S. Representative to the importance of hearing health issues by urging them to join the bipartisan Congressional Hearing Health Caucus (CHHC)! The CHHC provides an educational setting for Members of Congress and their staff to learn more about hearing health and the stakeholders involved. The AAO-HNS is an active supporter of the Caucus and often co-sponsors Capitol Hill events with other members of the hearing health community. [Click here](#) to check out the Academy's new grassroots advocacy site and send a pre-written email directly to your U.S. Representative!

Legislative & Political Reports

Short Term Funding Agreement Reached

On January 25, President Trump signed a Continuing Resolution to reopen the federal government and resume operations through February 15. Negotiations will continue over the coming weeks as both the Administration and U.S. Congress seek compromise on a long-term funding agreement.

Other News

Advocacy in Action: AAO-HNS Comments on Continuing Board Certification

On January 14, the AAO-HNS [submitted comments](#) on the ABMS Vision Initiative's Draft Report on Continuing Board Certification. While lifelong learning is essential, the AAO-HNS believes professional self-regulation through continuous learning and assessment must fit within the normal flow of a physician's practice and be available at a reasonable expense. The letter highlights the Academy's concerns with several of the Initiative's recommendations, including the consolidation of ABMS oversight at the expense of individual specialty boards and the expectation that all diplomates participate annually in continuing certification programs.

AAO-HNS Signs Regulatory Relief Letter to ONC

On January 28, the AAO-HNS joined the Physician Clinical Registry Coalition in [submitting comments](#) on the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology's draft *Strategy on Reducing Regulatory and Administrative Burden Relating to the Use of Health IT and EHRs*. The Coalition's comments highlight the important role that QCDRs, including Reg-ent, and other clinical data registries play in promoting quality care, while noting concerns relating to EHR interoperability and the usability of exchanged information.

Academy Continues Advocacy on Coverage of Balloon Sinus Ostial Dilation

In response to member feedback, the AAO-HNS submitted multiple comment letters to various private payers opposing their coverage policies designating balloon sinus ostial dilation as experimental/investigational. Visit the [AAO-HNS Private Payer Advocacy page](#) to learn more about the specific plans contacted through these advocacy efforts.

AAO-HNS Releases Updated and New Position Statements

Following an extensive review process by AAO-HNS Committees and the Physician Payment Policy (3P) Workgroup, the AAO-HNS Board of Directors' Executive Committee approved one [updated Position Statement on Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty](#) and one new statement on [Care of Children Infected with Cytomegalovirus](#).

Housing Deadline for #BOGMTG19 is March 27

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 by Friday, April 19. The deadline to secure housing is Wednesday, March 27.

Sincerely,

David Boisoeneau, 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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