



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

### AAO-HNS Opposes Audiology "Physician Status" Legislation

This week, an audiology "kitchen sink" bill (H.R. 2276) was reintroduced in Congress by U.S. Representatives Tom Rice (R-SC), Lynn Jenkins (R-KS), and Matt Cartwright (D-PA). If enacted, the legislation would grant audiologists "limited license physician" status under Medicare and provide audiologists with unlimited direct access to Medicare patients without a physician referral. The Academy's strong opposition to H.R. 2276 was communicated in a [letter](#) to the bill sponsors and members of the U.S. House of Representatives. [Help us further educate lawmakers about this patient safety issue by contacting your U.S. Representative today!](#)

### OTC Hearing Aid Legislation Examined By Congressional Committee

The Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee recently held a hearing titled, "Examining Improvements to the Regulation of Medical Technologies." As part of the May 2 hearing, lawmakers heard testimony regarding H.R. 1652, the Over-the-Counter Hearing Aid Act of 2017. The AAO-HNS has been monitoring H.R. 1652 closely and submitted a [written statement](#) for the record outlining the Academy's qualified support of creating a new class of OTC or "basic" hearing aids.

## Action Request

### Senate HELP Committee Advances EHDI Legislation

The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee recently advanced the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Act of 2017 (S. 652). This critical Committee activity paves the way for consideration by the full Senate. Once passed by the Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives will consider the bill. The AAO-HNS supports passage of this important legislation and continues to work with others in the hearing-health community to ensure final passage is achieved. [Contact your lawmakers today and urge swift passage of S. 652!](#)

## Legislative & Political Reports

### ACA Replacement Effort Advances to U.S. Senate

On May 4, the [U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1628](#), the American Health Care Act of 2017, by a vote of 217-213. The legislation, which is the cornerstone of the Republican Majority's effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, will now move to the U.S. Senate for consideration and possible amendments. The AAO-HNS will continue our conversations with lawmakers as the bill advances through the legislative process, advocating for affordable access to care for patients and reduced administrative burdens on physicians.

### Read the April 2017 Edition of the State-mENT

[The State-mENT](#) is an "at a glance" one-page resource outlining the Academy's state legislative activity from the previous month. Sign up as a [State Tracker](#) and become part of the discussion!

## Other News

### FTC Meeting on OTC Hearing Aids

The AAO-HNS recently participated in a Federal Trade Commission (FTC) workshop titled, "Now Hear This:

Competition, Innovation, and Consumer Protection Issues in Hearing Health Care.” The day-long meeting examined hearing health and technology matters, especially those related to hearing aids. In preparation for the workshop, the AAO-HNS submitted [comments](#) to the FTC.

### Hearing Health Community Hosts EHDI Briefing

The Friends of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus (FCHHC), including the AAO-HNS, hosted a Capitol Hill briefing on May 2, to highlight the importance of ongoing efforts to reauthorize the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. The [briefing](#) was attended by several Members of Congress, as well as more than 50 health staff.

### National Allergy Societies Address Ohio Compounding Concerns

To help clarify recent changes to in-office compounding regulations in Ohio and their impact on allergy immunotherapy, the AAO-HNS, the American Academy of Otolaryngic Allergy, and others recently shared a new communication from the state’s Board of Pharmacy. Allergen extracts may be prepared and used in accordance with the provisions of USP Chapter 797 rules and are not subject to a general six-hour beyond use date. View the Board’s clarification [here](#).

### Surgical Coalition Sends Letter to HHS Regarding Global Surgical Codes

The AAO-HNS joined 23 surgical organizations in sending a [letter](#) to HHS Secretary Tom Price, MD, and CMS Administrator Seema Verma regarding the implementation of a CMS policy requiring data collection on global services as finalized in the 2017 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Given the significant implementation hurdles, the Surgical Coalition requested CMS share a detailed plan for data validation and not enforce the July 1 data collection start date until all concerns have been addressed.



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*!

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