



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

July 7, 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

U.S. Senate Delays Vote on Repeal Legislation

Unable to secure the necessary votes to begin consideration of the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), U.S. Senate leadership postponed planned votes on legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Negotiations on possible modifications to the bill continued through the Fourth of July holiday recess, with an expectation that votes may be scheduled in mid-July. The AAO-HNS is monitoring these efforts closely and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Action Request

Make a Difference by Supporting PROJECT 535!

PROJECT 535 advocates are continuing to amplify the specialty's voice on Capitol Hill by contacting their lawmakers on issues such as scope of practice, medical liability reform, repeal of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB), and more! It's never too late to become an advocate for the specialty—[sign up today](#) to be a PROJECT 535 key contact and help reinforce our message. For more information, contact legfederal@entnet.org.

ICYMI: ENT PAC in Your Mailbox



All U.S. AAO-HNS members recently received two mail pieces urging support for ENT PAC, the Academy's political action committee. ENT PAC provides otolaryngologist—head and neck surgeons with the opportunity to work together to amplify the specialty's collective voice and impact on Capitol Hill. [Make your contribution online today](#), or learn more about ENT PAC and the Academy's legislative priorities by logging onto www.entpac.org!*

Legislative & Political Reports

Jerome Adams, MD, Nominated as U.S. Surgeon General

On June 29, President Trump nominated [Jerome Adams, MD](#), to serve as the next U.S. Surgeon General. A board-certified anesthesiologist, Dr. Adams is currently serving as Indiana's Health Commissioner. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Dr. Adams will succeed Vivek Murthy, MD. The AAO-HNS will be sending a letter to Senate leaders supporting Adams' nomination and speedy confirmation.

U.S. House of Representatives Passes Comprehensive Medical Liability Reform Legislation

On June 28, the U.S. House of Representatives passed (218-210) H.R. 1215, the [Protecting Access to Care Act](#). Mirroring the successful liability reforms of California and Texas, H.R. 1215 will ensure physicians and other healthcare providers are able to provide affordable, quality medical services to patients without the threat of meritless lawsuits. Prior to the vote, the AAO-HNS activated its grassroots advocates, sending out a "Call to Action" to PROJECT 535 participants urging them to contact their lawmakers in support of the bill. Thank you to the PROJECT 535 volunteers who made their voices heard!

U.S. House Committee Passes FDA User Fee Reauthorization with OTC Hearing Aid Provisions

On June 7, the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee debated and amended legislation to reauthorize the

[FDA's User Fee Agreements](#). The legislation was previously amended by the Committee's Health Subcommittee to include provisions relating to the over-the-counter sale of hearing aids. Prior to full Committee's consideration, the AAO-HNS Legislative Advocacy team worked with Committee staff to secure inclusion of additional amendment language relating to "medically treatable causes of hearing loss." The Committee voted 54-0 to advance the amended version of the bill, which will likely be considered by the full U.S. House in July.

Other News

Advocacy Resources Available for BOG State Societies

Did you know there are several advocacy-related resources readily available for BOG State Societies? In addition to a slide deck highlighting key AAO-HNS grassroots programs (which can be customized for your state) and other advocacy handouts, Academy staff may be available to offer an advocacy update to your members and/or host a booth at your next state society meeting. Also, is your BOG state society interested in starting its own grassroots program? If so, please let us know! The AAO-HNS is initiating a program to offer small grants to state societies who are interested in broadening their in-state advocacy efforts. Contact govtaffairs@entnet.org for more information.

AAO-HNS Attends "Listening Session" at FDA Headquarters

On June 6, the AAO-HNS participated in a stakeholder "listening session" at the FDA campus in Silver Spring, MD. The session focused on recommended revisions to recent FDA guidance documents relating to in-office compounding of drugs, with an emphasis on allergy immunotherapy. The AAO-HNS submitted [written comments](#) prior to the meeting and was represented in-person by AAO-HNS EVP/CEO James C. Denneny III, MD, and staff from the Legislative Advocacy team.

AAO-HNS Attends AMA House of Delegates Meeting

The [AMA House of Delegates](#) held its 2017 Annual Meeting from June 10-14 in Chicago, IL. The AAO-HNS was represented by its three-member delegation and two alternate delegates. Members of the AAO-HNS Delegation and staff also participated in two meetings of the OTO Section Council and a Medical Student Specialty Showcase.



Sincerely,

Susan R. Cordes, MD
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
and the AAO-HNS Legislative 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.*

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