



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

July 9, 2018

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

### Virtual Lobby Week Success!

Thank you to all who participated in the AAO-HNS 2018 Virtual Lobby Week (June 11-15)! Using a detailed [tool kit](#), AAO-HNS members made their voices heard by calling, emailing, and tweeting their Members of Congress in opposition to the direct access/physician status bill supported by the Academy of Doctors of Audiology (H.R. 2276/S. 2575). **Your efforts truly made a difference. Several Capitol Hill offices advised their decision to not support or co-sponsor the legislation was because they heard directly from YOU--the otolaryngologists in their districts and states. Despite ADA's efforts to garner support for H.R. 2276 and S. 2575 during their Capitol Hill visits, no new co-sponsors were added!**

## Action Requested

### Your ENT Dollars at Work

Voluntary contributions to ENT PAC from AAO-HNS members make it possible for the Academy to financially support Members of Congress who champion legislative priorities impacting the specialty. In the month of June, ENT PAC participated in political events for U.S. Representatives Eliot Engel (D-NY), Bill Flores (R-TX), Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. To help ensure the strength of the Academy's political programs [make or increase your 2018 ENT PAC contribution TODAY!](#)\*

### Listen Now: The Academy's Policymaking Process Podcast

Curious how ENT PAC makes decisions about which candidates to support or how the Academy's legislative priorities are determined? [Access the YPS podcast](#) to learn more about the Academy's advocacy decision-making process. The podcast, moderated by William C. Yao, MD, YPS Governing Council Secretary, features three guests from the Academy: Susan R. Cordes, MD, Chair, BOG Legislative Affairs Committee; R. Peter Manes, MD, Coordinator for Health Policy; and Joy L. Trimmer, JD, Senior Director of Advocacy.

### PROJECT 535 Volunteers Needed

As evidenced by the success of the AAO-HNS 2018 Virtual Lobby Week in June, advocating on behalf of the specialty can make a difference. Volunteers are still needed for PROJECT 535 – a key contact program that connects each federal lawmaker with an otolaryngologist in their district or state. [Sign up today](#) to be a PROJECT 535 key contact and help reinforce the specialty's message on Capitol Hill. For more information, contact [legfederal@entnet.org](mailto:legfederal@entnet.org).

## Legislative & Political Reports

### Latest Edition of the State-mENT

The May/June edition of the state advocacy newsletter, the [State-mENT](#), is now available. As most states have adjourned for the 2018 session, this enhanced edition highlights an advocacy win in Colorado and the final status of noteworthy legislation from several other states. The State Tracker conference call series will resume in December to prepare for the 2019 legislative session.

### AAO-HNS Representation at the AMA House of Delegates

The AAO-HNS was well-represented at the [Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates](#) held June 9-13 in

Chicago, IL. Your Academy was represented by **Robert Puchalski, MD**, Chair of the Delegation and Otolaryngology Section Council; **Douglas Myers, MD**, Delegate; **Craig Derkay, MD**, Delegate; and **James C. Denny, III, MD**, AAO-HNS EVP/CEO, as Alternate Delegate. Key topics of discussion at this policymaking forum were scope of practice concerns, opioid legislative proposals, payer denials, regulatory burdens, and physician wellness.

## Other News

### Health Net Joins Anthem in Rescinding Modifier 25 Policy

In response to coordinated advocacy efforts led by the California Medical Association and including the AAO-HNS, [Health Net has agreed to rescind its planned Modifier 25 policy](#). This proposal would have reduced reimbursement of an E/M service with Modifier 25 by 50 percent when billed with a minor surgical procedure or a preventive visit.

### QPP Update: 2017 MIPS Performance Feedback and Final Score Now Available

Providers who submitted 2017 Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) data through the Quality Payment Program (QPP) website can now access feedback on their performance and MIPS final score. Members can access this information by [logging onto the QPP website](#) using their Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) credentials. Stay tuned for more information on how to review feedback and submit questions to CMS!

### AAO-HNS Comments on FY19 IPPS Proposed Rule

The AAO-HNS joined with other members of the Physician Clinical Registry Coalition to submit comments to CMS on the Fiscal Year 2019 IPPS Proposed Rule. The [coalition's comments](#) communicated concern about the agency's plans to remove the Public Health and Clinical Data Exchange objective by 2022.

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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