



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

August 4, 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 Opposition to Audiology Physician Status

A coalition of more than 120 physician organizations, led by the AAO-HNS, [sent a letter](#) to leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives expressing strong opposition to the "Audiology Patient Choice Act" (H.R. 2276). If enacted, the federal bill would provide audiologists with unlimited direct access to Medicare patients without a physician referral, as well as limited license "physician" status under the Medicare program. The AAO-HNS thanks the state and local otolaryngology societies that signed the letter and welcomes any additional signatories. To add your organization to the letter, email [legfederal@entnet.org](mailto:legfederal@entnet.org).

## Action Request

### ENT PAC in Action

July was a busy month on Capitol Hill for ENT PAC, the Academy's political action committee. In addition to making the Academy's voice heard at political events in support of U.S. Representatives Bill Flores (R-TX), Linda Sanchez (D-CA), and Michael C. Burgess, MD (R-TX), the Academy hosted (via ENT PAC) an event for Rep. David Scott (D-GA), who has been a strong champion of physician issues, especially truth-in-advertising legislation. To ensure the continued strength of the Academy's political programs, [make your contribution online today](#), or learn more about ENT PAC and the Academy's legislative priorities by logging onto [www.entpac.org](http://www.entpac.org)!\*

### Sign Up for AAO-HNS' Advocacy Programs

The legislative lull of August provides a perfect opportunity to regroup and strengthen our various advocacy programs. Help us prepare for a busy fall by signing up for [PROJECT 535](#) and/or the [State Trackers](#) program! For more information, please contact [govtaffairs@entnet.org](mailto:govtaffairs@entnet.org).

### AAO-HNS Continues EHDI Advocacy

As part of a broader coalition, AAO-HNS Legislative Advocacy staff are continuing to meet with lawmakers to secure additional cosponsors for H.R. 1539, legislation to reauthorize the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. To assist with the Academy's efforts, AAO-HNS members are encouraged to [contact their Federal lawmakers](#) and urge them to co-sponsor and reauthorize this important public health program!

### Attention PAC Investors: Call for ENT PAC Board Nominations

The ENT PAC Board of Advisors and staff are now accepting nominations for individuals interested in serving on the PAC Board (self-nominations welcome). All potential nominees must have a strong history of supporting ENT PAC and an interest in helping to strengthen the Academy's political advocacy efforts. Contact [entpac@entnet.org](mailto:entpac@entnet.org) to submit a nomination and/or learn more about the responsibilities associated with serving on the PAC Board. Nominations accepted through Friday, September 1.

## Legislative & Political Reports

### Ways & Means Committee Announces Regulatory Relief Initiative

The Health Subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee recently announced the creation of the "Provider Statutory and Regulatory Relief Initiative," an effort designed to identify opportunities to reduce legislative and regulatory burdens on Medicare providers. The Committee is seeking feedback on how

Congress can deliver statutory and regulatory relief by working with the Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The AAO-HNS is preparing comments for submission to the Committee and looks forward to working with lawmakers as they identify and explore opportunities for regulatory relief.

### U.S. Senate Confirms Surgeon General Nominee Jerome Adams, MD

On August 3, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm the nomination of Jerome Adams, MD to serve as the next U.S. Surgeon General. The AAO-HNS supported Dr. Adams' nomination and recently [sent a letter](#) to Senate leaders urging a swift confirmation.

### Health Reform Efforts Fail in Senate

After a dramatic week that culminated in an all-night “vote-a-rama,” the U.S. Senate failed to pass legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). While Senate leadership has expressed a desire to “move past healthcare,” a bipartisan group of lawmakers have been meeting to brainstorm a legislative package designed to stabilize the ACA marketplace and implement other reforms to the law. The AAO-HNS is continuing to monitor healthcare reform efforts and will provide additional information as it becomes available.

### User Fee Reauthorization with OTC Hearing Aid Provisions Advances to President

The U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate recently passed legislation to reauthorize the FDA's User Fee Agreements. The legislation (H.R. 2430) was amended by the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce to include provisions relating to the over-the-counter sale of hearing aids, and the AAO-HNS was successful in securing amendment language relating to labeling requirements and “medically treatable causes of hearing loss.” The bill will now head to the President for signature. Once signed into law, the FDA will begin the regulatory process to create a category of OTC hearing aids. The AAO-HNS will be closely monitoring the FDA's progress and will provide comments during the rulemaking process.

## Other News

### FDA Announces Major Shift in Tobacco Policy

The FDA [recently announced](#) a new comprehensive plan for tobacco and nicotine regulation that will serve as a multi-year roadmap to better protect kids and significantly reduce tobacco-related disease and death. As part of the FDA's policy shift, the agency will also delay the deadlines established for oversight of electronic cigarettes, cigars, and previously unregulated tobacco products for five years, while additional information and stakeholder feedback is collected.



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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