



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 Requests Federal Funding for Tobacco Control Efforts

The Academy joined others in the healthcare community in sending letters to congressional appropriators regarding FY 2020 funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH). The [FDA letter](#) requests approval of \$712 million in tobacco product user fees, the full amount authorized by the Tobacco Control Act. The [CDC OSH letter](#) asks for a \$100 million increase in funding to help the agency better address the new epidemic of e-cigarette use among America's youth. [Click here to learn more about federal oversight of tobacco products.](#)

Action Requested

Visit the Advocacy Tables at the 2019 Leadership Forum

The [AAO-HNS/F 2019 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring Meeting](#) is just around the corner. Stop by the Advocacy tables to learn more about the Academy's various advocacy-related initiatives and grassroots programs. You can also make your 2019 [ENT PAC](#) contribution of \$365+ (or \$100 for residents) before Saturday night's reception in downtown Washington, DC!*

New Congress, New Contacts: PROJECT 535

Successful legislative advocacy starts with a solid grassroots foundation. Federal lawmakers want to hear from YOU—their physician constituents! Academy members have a powerful voice on a wide range of topics, including reimbursement, scope of practice, and other issues that affect your practice and patients. Make your voice heard and [sign up for PROJECT 535!](#)

Advocacy in Just One Click

AAO-HNS members can reinforce the Academy's legislative efforts on Capitol Hill by calling, emailing, and tweeting their Members of Congress. This additional layer of constituent-based outreach strengthens the specialty's position when Congress debates major healthcare issues. Visit the Academy's new [grassroots advocacy website](#) to send your Members of Congress a pre-written email with just one click! Each "Call to Action" includes important background information on the legislation/issue and an email which pre-populates once the web form is completed. You CAN make a difference with just one click! Questions? Contact the AAO-HNS Advocacy team at govtaffairs@entnet.org.

Legislative & Political Reports

Advocacy in Action: State Legislative Victories

The Governor of Virginia signed [HB 2026](#) into law legislation requiring CMV screening for newborns that fail an initial hearing test. Thank you to all of the AAO-HNS members in Virginia who assisted with these efforts! Want to learn more about the Academy's advocacy efforts at the state level? Read the latest edition of [The State-mENT!](#) Interested in helping the Academy advance legislative priorities in your state? Sign up to be a [State Tracker!](#)

AAO-HNS Requests Funding for AHRQ

The AAO-HNS joined a coalition of more than 152 healthcare organizations in [sending a letter](#) to Congressional appropriators regarding funding for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). The letter requested \$460 million in funding for Fiscal Year 2020, which would allow the agency to rebuild portfolios terminated by previous budget cuts and expand its research and training initiatives.

ENT PAC in Action

March kicked off a busy Spring for ENT PAC—the specialty's nonpartisan, issue-driven political action committee. On March 28, ENT PAC hosted a call with Chief Deputy Whip U.S. Representative Drew Ferguson (R-GA). Participation on the call was limited to "First 50" ENT PAC investors. Additionally, the AAO-HNS advocated for the specialty on Capitol Hill by participating (via ENT PAC) in political events for the following members of the U.S. Congress:

U.S. Representatives:

- Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA);
- Lloyd Doggett (D-TX);
- Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM);
- John Joyce, MD (R-PA);
- Andy Harris, MD (R-MD);
- Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN);
- Anna Eshoo (D-CA);
- Kathy Castor (D-FL)

U.S. Senator

- Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA)

Other News

New Member Resource: Top 100 ENT Services for 2019

The Academy has prepared new member resources outlining the Top 100 Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes reported by providers with the subspecialty designation of "4-Otolaryngology" within the Medicare enrollment database. Two charts are now available: 2019 Top 100 ENT Codes Billed in a Physician Office and 2019 Top 100 ENT Codes Billed in the Hospital Outpatient Department. Further information and the chart files can be accessed as part of the Academy's Coding Corner. [The Coding Corner](#) is a valuable resource available to AAO-HNS members that includes CPT for ENT articles, annual code change summaries, and ICD-10 coding resources.

Sincerely,

David Boisoneau, 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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