



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

July 17, 2019

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

Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act of 2019: Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on July 25, 2019

On June 26, U.S. Representatives Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA), and Phil Roe, MD (R-TN), introduced bipartisan legislation ([H.R.3502](#)), which boasts 52 cosponsors, aimed at ending surprise medical billing. In supporting H.R.3502, the AAO-HNS thanked Drs. Ruiz and Roe for their leadership to craft a legislative solution to surprise medical billing that works for physicians and patients alike.

The Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act makes the following reforms:

- Holds patients harmless for unanticipated out-of-network care when they cannot choose an in-network provider
- Implements a 'baseball-style' arbitration model that identifies a reasonable payment rate when insurers and providers cannot resolve billing disputes
- Improves transparency by requiring health plans to clearly identify in-network providers and patients' cost sharing

Action Requested

Text to Advocate: Sign Up Today!

Members can reinforce the Academy's legislative efforts by signing up to receive timely advocacy updates and "Calls to Action." This layer of outreach strengthens the specialty's position when Congress debates major healthcare issues. You **CAN** make a difference; and it's as simple as **texting "Otoadvocate" to 313131**. Questions? Contact the AAO-HNS Advocacy team at govtaffairs@entnet.org.

You Don't Need to Be in DC to Advocate!

The Academy provides numerous opportunities for its members to influence health policy at the state and federal level, educate elected officials, and invest in the future of otolaryngology. One of the best ways to make your voice heard is by participating in the In-District Grassroots Outreach (I-GO) program. You don't need to fly to Washington, DC, to meet with your elected representatives! Meeting with a lawmaker or their staff at their local office or inviting them to tour your practice are also effective ways to engage with policymakers. To learn more about the I-Go program or request a meeting with your state or federal legislators, be sure to [check out the June edition of the *Bulletin*](#).

Show Your ENT PAC Investor Status

New to the ENT PAC booth this year are custom-made lapel pins available exclusively to Chairman's and Leadership Club members. Not sure what your ENT PAC investor status is? Login to www.ENTPAC.org with your AAO-HNS ID and click on "2019 Investors." ENT PAC staff will hand out lapel pins to qualifying members at the upcoming Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Wear them around your colleagues to show your ongoing, generous support for the specialty's political action committee. As always, ribbons will remain available to all PAC investors below Chairman's Club.

Legislative & Political Reports

Hot Off the Press: The June 2019 State-MENT

[The State-mENT](#) is an "at a glance" one-page resource outlining the Academy's ongoing state legislative activity. The AAO-HNS works closely with its volunteer physician State Trackers and state otolaryngology societies to advocate for the specialty at the state level. Sign up to be a State Tracker and become part of the discussion!

AAO-HNS Leadership Visits Capitol Hill

On July 10, AAO-HNS leadership went to Capitol Hill to meet with U.S. Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Michael Burgess, MD (R-TX), and U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) on surprise medical billing legislation being considered in the House and Senate. To learn more about our most recent legislative efforts, check out The Academy's [Trending Topics in Advocacy page](#).

Other News

AAO-HNS Opposes Anthem Policy on Modifier 25

On June 11, the AAO-HNS wrote Anthem's national office requesting that the company quickly reverse its new Modifier 25 reimbursement policy. Since that policy was released, several local Anthem plans have announced new Modifier 25 policies that mirror the new national policy. [The Academy's comment letter](#) registers our strong opposition to the new policy, citing flaws with the rationale used by Anthem in developing the policy and requesting further clarification on its implementation.

Sincerely,

David Boisoneau, MD
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair
and the AAO-HNS Advocacy Team

For more information, contact govtaffairs@entnet.org.

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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