



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

March 13, 2020

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 Celebrates House of Representatives Passage of Anti-Tobacco Legislation

Over the course of the past year, [the AAO-HNS collaborated with a number of physician and public health organizations to advance H.R. 2339](#), the “Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act.” H.R. 2339, which was introduced by Representatives Pallone (D-NJ) and Shalala (D-FL) on April 18, 2019, would prohibit all flavored tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, increase the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products to 21, ban all non-face-to-face sales for tobacco products, and protect kids from the marketing of tobacco products. H.R. 2339 was marked up by the House Energy and Commerce Committee on February 21. The U.S. House of Representatives then passed the “Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act” by a vote of 213-195 on February 28. The AAO-HNS and other coalition members continue our advocacy efforts in the U.S. Senate, where the bill has now been sent for further consideration.

Legislative & Political Reports

Federal Government Takes Action to Combat Coronavirus

Last week, Congress and the Administration took action to pass an emergency coronavirus package. [H.R. 6074, the “Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act”](#) passed Congress and was signed into law by President Trump on March 6. H.R. 6074 includes \$8.3 billion of funding for federal agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak. This funding will go toward public health measures to prevent the spread of this virus, develop vaccine and treatment, issue loans for affected small businesses and support health systems in other impacted countries. AAO-HNS applauds Congress and the Administration for their swift work to help keep Americans safe and alleviate this growing problem.

March Edition of the State-mENT Now Available

Read the latest edition of [The State-mENT](#), an “at a glance” one-page resource outlining the Academy’s current 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. If you would like to become a State Tracker and take part in the discussion please email LegState@entnet.org!

Fourth Quarter “Your PAC Dollars at Work” Report Now Available

ENT PAC is an invaluable tool that strengthens the Academy's overall legislative advocacy efforts. We understand the importance of providing transparency and a greater understanding about how decisions are made regarding the specialty's political action committee. So, in 2018 ENT PAC launched a new quarterly report titled "Your PAC Dollars at Work". View [the latest edition](#) summarizing ENT PAC activities in 2019.

Reminder: MIPS 2019 Data Submission Deadline is March 31, 2020

The data submission deadline for Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligible clinicians who participated in the 2019 performance period of the Quality Payment Program is a few weeks away. Data can be [submitted and updated](#) any time until 8:00 pm (EDT) on March 31. Data submitted will be reflected in the 2021 calendar year payment adjustment. Please note that this submission opportunity is only through the CMS QPP interface. For those clinicians reporting through the Reg-ent registry, please continue to work with the Client Account Support team to complete the data review and submission process via your Reg-ent MIPS 2019 dashboard. Questions about Reg-ent? Email Reg-ent@entnet.org.

The ASLP Interstate Compact Has Landed

The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (ASLP-IC) legislation has been introduced in eleven states to date. The Academy has been working with the AMA, state otolaryngology societies and state medical societies to amend the legislation. These amendments include eliminating potential SOP expansion, increasing transparency, allowing physicians to be delegates to the Commission and re-defining telehealth. [Be Advocate Aware!](#)

Action Requested

AAO-HNS Needs Your Support! Say No to S. 2446 and H.R. 4056

Now, more than ever, the AAO-HNS needs your support. Legislation has been introduced (S. 2446/H.R. 4056) that seeks to designate audiologists as "practitioners," and allow them direct access to Medicare beneficiaries without a physician referral. Your voice is needed to amplify our efforts on Capitol Hill and ensure your patients continue to receive the highest quality care. [Please click here](#) to access the action alert on the AAO-HNS Advocacy website. The alert includes a sample letter you can use to make your voice heard and stop this misguided legislation from advancing in Congress. With your support, we can make a difference! Tell Congress to say no to S. 2446/H.R. 4056 "The Medicare Audiologist access and Services Act of 2019"

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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