

Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

November 12, 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!

AAO-HNS Advocates to Promote Patient Safety and Oppose Scope Expansion by Audiologists

On October 17, the House Committee on Energy and Commerce convened a legislative markup of H.R. 4618, [Medicare Hearing Act of 2019](#), which will provide Medicare coverage for hearing aids in certain patient populations as well as grant audiologists the ability to treat Medicare beneficiaries. Following its passage, the House Ways and Means Committee held a legislative markup of HR 4618 on October 22.

The bill also includes a provision directing the HHS Inspector General to study the feasibility of audiologists furnishing audiology services without a physician referral. AAO-HNS advocacy staff and our physician leaders are in

AAO-HNS Comments on Draft Medicare Local Coverage Policy on Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation for the Treatment of OSA

On October 25, the AAO-HNS [submitted comments](#) L Q UHVSRQVH WR 1RULGLDQ¶V SURSRV Decision (LCD): Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation for the Treatment of Obstructive Sleep Apnea. Noridian HealthcareSolutions, LLC serves as a Part A/B Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC) for two different geographic regions. Overall, the Academy endorsed the proposed LCD, but suggested revisions to the covered indications, limitations, and provider qualifications for the insertion of hypoglossal nerve stimulators in patients with obstructive sleep apnea (OSA).

AAO-HNS and Colorado ENT Society Work to Protect Patients Via Sunset Provisions

In March of 2019, the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) sought input from the AAO-HNS R Q WKH \$JHQFLHV¶ VXQVHW VWDWXWRU\ DQG UHJXODWRU\ UHYLHZ providers. Working in conjunction with members of the CO Ear, Nose, Throat Society, the Academy submitted [comments](#) outlining our public safety concerns with current licensure laws as well as several proposals related to scope expansion.

Last month, DORA released its sunset [review](#), which was improved to include several of our suggestions. In addition to clarifying the appropriate use of the t H U P ³ G R F W R U ´ D Q G Q R W D O O R Z L Q J K H D U tinnitus or recommend implants, the Department proposed reinstating Deceptive Trade Practices provisions to include a medical clearance requirement for children with hearing loss before referral to an audiologist or hearing aid provider. DORA will now present their recommendations to the committee of reference in the CO General Assembly during the 2020 legislative session. As further changes could occur in the legislature, the Academy and our advocates will be vigilantly watching!

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

Now, more than ever, the AAO -HNS needs your support . Legislation has been introduced (H.R.4056/S. WKDW VHHNV WR GHVLJQDWH DXGLRORJLVWV DV ³SUDFWLWL RQH 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. The action alert [is accessible](#) on the AAO-HNS Advocacy website, www.entadvocacy.org. 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 and tell Congress to say no to

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.*

American Academy of Otolaryngology ² Head and Neck Surgery
1650 Diagonal Road, Alexandria, VA 22314-2857
Phone: 1-703-836-8444 | Fax: 1-703-683-5100