



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

June 4, 2021

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

Audiology Direct Access Legislation Introduced in U.S. Senate

On May 19, the “Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act (MAASA) of 2021” (S. 1731) was introduced by Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ). The legislation seeks to grant audiologists “direct access” to Medicare patients, eliminating the long-standing physician referral requirement in current law. For patient safety reasons, the AAO-HNS strongly opposes this legislation and its companion bill (H.R. 1587), introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in March. Hearing and balance disorders are medical conditions that require a full patient history, physical examination, and medical diagnosis by a MD/DO. Please help the AAO-HNS continue our strong grassroots response, [demonstrating your opposition](#) on our advocacy website by sending a pre-written message to your lawmakers. All it takes is one click! Questions? Please contact the AAO-HNS Advocacy Team at govtaffairs@entnet.org for more information or to get involved.

Legislative and Political Reports

AAO-HNS Supports COVID-19 Physician Liability Protection Legislation

The AAO-HNS joined members of the [Health Coalition on Liability and Access](#) to offer its strong endorsement of H.R. 3021. The Coronavirus Provider Protection Act offers liability protection for physicians and other healthcare providers who act in good faith and abide by government guidelines while caring for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. This bipartisan federal legislation would ensure the healthcare workforce serving on the frontlines of the pandemic are not punished with unwarranted lawsuits, while maintaining necessary patient protections.

May 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!

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 2021. To invest in the future of the specialty, click [here](#)!

U.S. Senate Confirms Brooks-LaSure as New CMS Administrator

On May 27, following [confirmation in the Senate](#), Chiquita Brooks-LaSure was sworn in as Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), becoming the first Black female to hold this position. A former deputy director of CMS' Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, Brooks-LaSure will now oversee the agency's Medicare and Medicaid reform efforts.

federal elected officials. This additional element of constituent