

OCTOBER 2020

THE MONTHLY ADVOCATE

Student Academy of Audiology



WHY ADVOCATE?

- Due to COVID-19, it has never been more imperative to advocate for the integrity and provision of audiological services.
- Your voice will leave a lasting impact on the profession, specifically patient care, during the pandemic.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

On March 30, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced it would allow certain allied healthcare services to be paid for as telehealth services. Audiology services were *not* included in this list. Audiologists must be deemed “practitioners” to allow them to provide services via telehealth. During COVID-19, telehealth services are necessary for many patients. [Ask your senator or house representative](#) to ensure Medicare beneficiary access to audiology services is included in future COVID-19 legislation.

VIRTUAL ADVOCACY

- [Learn](#) who your Member of Congress is by searching your zip code. You can also look up all of your federal, state, and local representatives through the Academy's [Legislative Action Center](#).
- [Take action](#) and learn about the current legislation impacting audiology!
- For information on how your SAA chapter can plan an event, visit the [SAA website](#)!
- Want to write to your legislators about important audiology issues? [Check out these tips](#) on writing to your elected officials.
- Remember, one personalized letter is about ten times as effective as a form letter or petition signature!

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Kay Park, AuD, serves as chair of the Missouri Infant Hearing Standing Committee and manager of Newborn Hearing Services, LLC. She is a leader in the field regarding state advocacy efforts for early identification of hearing loss in infants and children. Dr. Park also leads efforts for private insurance coverage of hearing aids for children under 18 years old in the state of Missouri. [Learn more](#) about details on the current bill inspired in part by her efforts.

For more information regarding SAA and advocacy, or for questions, comments and suggestions, contact:

Megan Tice
megantice.saa@gmail.com

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