

DECEMBER 2020

# THE MONTHLY ADVOCATE

*Student Academy of Audiology*



## Legislative Update

- The American Academy of Audiology ("the Academy"), the American Doctors of Audiology (ADA), and the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) hosted a [virtual congressional briefing](#) stressing the need for the Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act (H.R.4056). The importance of hearing and balance care for Medicare Part B beneficiaries, current hurdles to achieving care under the current Medicare model, Medicare modernization efforts, and fiscal benefits to this legislation are highlighted by representatives from the Academy, ADA, ASHA, and the bill's sponsor, Representative Tom Rice (R-SC). [Watch the video of the briefing here!](#)

## How COVID-19 impacts the importance of Medicare Audiologist Access and Services Act

- Due to COVID-19, eliminating barriers to care for older Americans is even more critical than it already was. The ability to hear and communicate is fundamental to easing the burdens of social isolation for Medicare Part B beneficiaries.
- "Practitioner" classification under Medicare would enable audiologists to provide and bill for more telehealth services, further eliminating barriers to care and improving quality of life during the pandemic.

## World Hearing Day Grants: Call for Applications!

- World Hearing Day will be observed on March 3, 2021 with the theme "**Hearing care for ALL! Screen. Rehabilitate. Communicate.**"
- The World Hearing Forum, World Health Organization, and Coalition for Global Hearing Health invite proposals for **WHF-CGHH Small Grants for World Hearing Day 2021**
- 30 grants of up to \$800 will be awarded to cover expenses related to World Hearing Day Activities.
- Applications are due January 11, 2021
- [Click here for more information about the grant and eligibility.](#)

## Advocacy in Action



Brittany Day, AuD, is Associate Director for Inpatient Pediatric Audiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and is an audiology consultant for Newborn Hearing Screening Follow-up with the Tennessee Department of Health. Dr. Day has been involved in many advocacy endeavours and currently serves as SAA Tennessee State Ambassador Mentor, Clinical Director for the Special Olympics TN Healthy Hearing program, and audiology consultant for the TN Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program. She has served on the Academy's State Relations Committee and as VP of Legislative Affairs for the Tennessee Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (TAASLP). Through this role, Dr. Day was involved in the passage of TN House Bill 339 (Senate Bill 1211), which authorized clinical fellows to obtain a provisional license to practice speech-language pathology, and the passage of TN Senate Bill 398 (House Bill 1262), which repealed the Professional Privilege Tax for 15 of 22 professions required to pay, including audiologists and SLPs.

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

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