

THE MONTHLY ADVOCATE



CHAPTER CHALLENGE UPDATE

WHAT TO DO IN FEBRUARY?

- Determine what issues/bills your group will be focusing on. Remember, it's also helpful (and sometimes necessary) to be prepared to describe what audiology is and why it's important.
- Remember to invite a guest speaker if applicable
- Finalize student attendee list—encourage attendees to RSVP one week prior to your "hard cutoff" date
- Encourage attendees to contact their elected officials regarding one of the issues/bills you'll be discussing. Attach tips on writing your legislators

AUDIOLOGY UPDATE

Medicare Hearing Act of 2019

- H.R. 3 **PASSED** House of Representatives on December 12, 2019 (Includes Medicare Hearing Act of 2019).
- Section 602 "Providing Coverage for Hearing Care under Medicare Program".
- Provides hearing aid benefits for Medicare beneficiaries with severe to profound hearing loss.
- Enables audiologists to be reimbursed by Medicare for covered diagnostic and treatment services.
- Reclassifies audiologists as practitioners under Medicare.

Medicare Audiologist Access & Services Act of 2019

- H.R. 4056; S.2446 has been **INTRODUCED**.
- It allows for audiologists to see patients without a physician referral, receive direct reimbursement from Medicare, and choose to opt out of Medicare.

NEXT STEPS

- In the process of planning a day at your state capitol? Visit the SAA website for [resources!](#)
- Interested in learning about your regional contact? [Find out who it is.](#)

D.C. MEET-UP

Keep an eye out for the date of the D.C. Meet-up! We would love to see SAA members storm Capitol Hill!

CHAPTER CHALLENGE UPDATE

Current standings for first place, by category:

- Overall: University of Washington
- Advocacy: NOAC
- Education: University of Colorado at Boulder
- Humanitarian: University of Louisville
- Fundraising: University of Washington

Don't see your program on the leaderboard? There's still time! The third and last period is from December 14- February 28. It is not too late to crack the rankings!

Powered by:



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

Samantha Kesteloot
samanthakesteloot.saa@gmail.com