

FEBRUARY 2021

THE MONTHLY ADVOCATE

Student Academy of Audiology



Legislative Update

Pediatric Hearing Aid Coverage

- For the past two years, Missouri has proposed bills in the House and Senate to require insurance coverage of hearing aids for children - these bills were unsuccessful.
- Missouri Medicaid covers hearing services, hearing aids, and FM/DM systems for children. [A bill has been filed](#) to the Missouri House and Senate which requires healthcare plans to provide coverage for all services covered by Missouri Medicaid, at a minimum.
- Advocates have recorded four videos of parents of deaf/hard-of-hearing children discussing the burden of lack of insurance coverage and seeking funding elsewhere to present to the Missouri Congress as well. [Track the bill](#) to stay up to date on legislative action!

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Audiologists

- States have begun vaccination efforts, [varying](#) in how many of their doses have been given out. While all states prioritize healthcare workers in Phase 1, some states specifically identify who qualifies as a “healthcare worker.” Many healthcare providers in private practice and/or those not affiliated with a large healthcare system are concerned that they are being overlooked.
- [Access your state’s vaccine distribution plan](#) and determine if your state has defined “healthcare workers.” If audiologists are not listed or the designation is not defined, contact your local and [state health department](#) to advocate for the inclusion of audiologists in this category.

2020 was a big year for advocacy in audiology! Read the [Academy's 2020 Advocacy in Review](#) to recap the tremendous feats of the year!



Advocacy in Action



Ty Tanker, BA, is a third year AuD student at the University of Iowa. He has served on his local SAA executive board for two years and is a member of Iowa’s outreach organization, University of Iowa Sound Awareness for Everyone (UISAFE). For the past few months Ty has been planning a live online event featuring four to five students with hearing loss across a range of ages who use varying communication modalities. The goal of the event is to provide these students a platform to express themselves and talk about what makes them unique, focusing on educating the public about the many ways hearing loss can manifest and impact lives differently. With prepared and live questions from the audience, these students will have the opportunity to be seen and heard. Ty hopes this will work towards eliminating the stigma surrounding kids with hearing loss and will serve as a tool for parents, teachers, and anyone curious about hearing loss. For more information about the event, please contact [Ty Tanker](#).

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

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