

Legislative Updates

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- Legislative Updates
- Educational Opportunities
- Educational Sessions

BUILD BACK BETTER ACT - H.R. 5376

This bill is being considered by Congress to add new hearing benefits to Medicare and greatly impact both patients and providers. It would add coverage of treatment services provided by audiologists and reclassify audiologists as practitioners; this would allow audiologists to bill services provided via telehealth. The bill does not remove the physician order requirement for coverage of diagnostic audiology services. The provisions also classify hearing aid dispensers as qualified hearing aid professionals that are eligible to provide hearing assessment services as allowed by state licensure. It also includes coverage of hearing aids for individuals with moderately-severe to profound hearing loss in one or both ears once every 5 years.

THE ALLIED HEALTH WORKFORCE DIVERSITY ACT - H.R. 3320/S.1679

This act would allow for scholarships/stipends to be made available to students typically underrepresented in audiology and other allied health professions. The Academy is working to add language to the bill that includes ACAE (Accreditation Commission for Audiology Education) accredited programs as eligible educational entities and specifies that the Academy will disburse the funds. This was passed by the 116th Congress and has been introduced to the 117th Congress to increase the diversity of the workforce. This act is vital to ensure that the health care workforce mirrors the makeup of the population. To support this bill please follow this link: [Legislative Action Center - The American Academy of Audiology](#)

Find more information on these legislations:

[Build Back Better Act](#)

[The Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act](#)

Follow this link to learn about more advocacy efforts and ways to contact representatives to support the efforts! [Legislative Action Center - The American Academy of Audiology](#)

Educational Opportunities

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

AAA 2022 + HearTECH Expo

Learn from experts in vestibular audiology, teleaudiology, pediatric audiology, and more!

March 30 - April 2, 2022, St. Louis, MO

[Register today!](#)

SAA 2022 Conference

Sponsored by Starkey

March 30, 2022, St. Louis, MO

[Register today!](#)

Get the full list of topics and potential dates and times here: [Educational Sessions - The American Academy of Audiology](#)

Sign up for the events and receive more details here: [Conference Planner](#)

For more information regarding SAA and advocacy, contact:
Shannon Kim
shannonkim.saa@gmail.com

LEARNING LABS

Workshops that are organized by the Academy that talk about cutting-edge, relevant topics. Held on the first night of the conference, the Learning Labs allow you to learn through hands-on exercises with appropriate clinical practices.

Examples of Learning Labs offered this year include:

Benign Paroxysmal Positional Vertigo: Science and Protocols for Successful Treatment and Happy Patients

Presenters: Richard E. Gans, PhD; Joseph Sakumura, AuD; Brittany Fauble, AuD; and Alyssa Steinweis, AuD

Cerumen Management Workshop: Navigating Your Way Out of a Sticky Situation

Presenter: Samuel Bittel, AuD

Trust the Patient, Verify the Hearing Aids

Presenter: Lindsey Jorgensen, AuD, PhD

Learn more here: [Educational Sessions](#)

GRAND ROUNDS

Two-hour sessions on contemporary topics that are presented by leaders in the field of audiology, hearing science, and other related professions. The dates and times for these sessions will be forthcoming! A preview of a Grand Rounds topic is as follows:

Bias, Equity, and Early Childhood Development

Marion Downs Lecture in Pediatric Audiology

Sponsored by Oticon Foundation
Presented by Arie Nettles, PhD

FOR MORE VISIT: <https://saa.audiology.org/>