

## **2018: A Year of Member Involvement**

### *Hill Visits*

The Academy hosted Capitol Hill days for the following groups:

- The Jerger Future Leaders of Audiology Conference (JFLAC)
- The Student Academy of Audiology Board of Directors
- Nova Southeastern University
- The Ohio State University
- Northeast Ohio AuD Consortium and Ohio University
- Texas SAA trip comprised of students from UT-Dallas, Texas Tech University, and Lamar University

### *Academy Collaborations*

The Academy seeks opportunities to work with many different stakeholders to advance its advocacy efforts.

- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communications Disorders (NIDCD)
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Alliance (DHHA) – this coalition includes professional groups and consumer groups like the HLAA, AG Bell, American Cochlear Implant Alliance, and others.
- Professional organizations representing audiology and/or hearing health interests (AAO-HNS, ADA, ASHA, AVAA, HIA, IHS, and many more)
- Patients' Access to Responsive Care Alliance (PARCA) – this coalition includes organizations representing non-physician providers and provides multiple political opportunities for AAA.
- Friends of the Congressional Hearing Health Caucus (FCHHC) – this coalition hosts two events per year: an educational briefing and a tour of the NIDCD/NIH Clinical Center.
- Better Medicare Alliance (BMA) – this coalition of provider organizations, insurance companies, patient groups, and others advocate for stronger Medicare Advantage policies.

### *PAC and Legislative Activities*

- AAA PAC contributed \$40,000 to candidates and campaign committees in the 2018 election cycle.
- Contributed \$5,000 to both the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) and the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) in 2018 allowing access to numerous special events, meet and greets, and political updates which helped benefit AAA's political strategy.
- Local members attended events in district for Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) and victorious candidate Mary Gay Scanlon (D-PA).
- Issued letter of support for H.R. 2042, the Access to Frontline Health Care Act of 2017.
- Issued letter of support for H.R. 2550, the Medicare Telehealth Parity Act.
- Mobilized the Academy's Legislative Action Center to engage audiologists in contacting their members of Congress on a variety of topics.