What is Advocacy?

- **Anticipate**: Anticipate changes in healthcare delivery systems
- **Influence**: Influence the process, decisions, and structures
- **Engage**: Engage our members and patient groups to become partners in the process
Government Relations Committee

Mission: To engage AAN members in advocacy in support of the profession of neurology and patients with neurologic disease.

Vision: To be the primary resource to AAN members on legislation and advocacy.

Chair
Nicholas E. Johnson, MD
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT

Vice-Chair
James N. Goldenberg, MD, FAAN
Medical Specialists of the Palm Beaches Neurology
Atlantis, FL

Key Players
Stakeholders
Legislators
Staff
Advocates

Federal Legislative Priorities

• Demonstrate value of neurology
  • Improve cognitive reimbursement
  • Reduce regulatory burden

• Increase research funding
  • Support the BRAIN Initiative
  • NIH appropriations

• Access to neurologists
  • Telemedicine/Telesstroke
  • GME Funding
AAN Principles for Health Care Delivery

• Access to high quality health care and preventative care through insurance coverage for all, including those most vulnerable to health care disparities, regardless of pre-existing conditions
• Appropriately value cognitive care services
• Limit administrative requirements and advocate for EHR functionality to ensure that physicians spend as little time as possible on low-value clerical work, and as much time as possible engaged in direct patient care
• Continue efforts to streamline EHR interoperability and reduce data blocking to allow any willing provider to participate in a qualified clinical data registry
• Improved valuation of patient-centered care setting alternatives including telemedicine and other innovative care models

AAN Principles for Health Care Delivery

• Improve efforts to reduce spending on pharmaceuticals and other key drivers of health care expense through cost transparency and permit the negotiation of drug costs by Medicare
• Medical liability reforms to reduce the cost of premiums and defensive medicine
• Preservation of the physician-patient relationship including independent medical decision-making and patient access to needed treatments and education
• Protect access to neurology care in all settings, including small and solo practices

State Legislative Priorities

• Telemedicine
• Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
• Opioids
• Sports Concussion
• Medical Marijuana
• Firearm Gag Laws
• Drug Pricing & Access

Let the AAN know of active issues in Alabama!
advocacy@aan.com
Telemedicine
- State & Federal efforts
- Active partnership with AHA/ASA in support of Telestroke
- FAST Act
- Working with AMA on expanding states joining FSMB Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

BrainPAC
- AAN’s federal political action committee
- Founded in 2007
- Raised more than $2.3 million from more than 3,700 members
- Given more than $1.8 million to candidates
- This “tool” puts the AAN at the table

Total Donations, 2016 Election Cycle
Recent Advocacy Successes

- Increased funding for the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, BRAIN Initiative, and Alzheimer’s-specific research
- Repeal of the flawed SGR formula
  - Replaced by MACRA
- Sustained funding for the VA’s Epilepsy Centers of Excellence
PALF Facts

- The Forum has trained 400+ neurologists from 44 states, Washington DC & Puerto Rico and 18 other countries

- Three Components:
  - Media Training
  - Grassroots Legislative Training
  - Action Planning

- Large portion of graduates serve in leadership roles within the AAN

- Competitive application process, opens in the fall
  - ~30 participants selected each year

Neurology on the Hill
NOH Facts

- Two day event in Washington, DC
- Historically, 43 states and Washington, DC represented
- Day 1 - Monday
  - Federal advocacy training
  - Priority issue training
  - Organize state contingents
  - Members of Congress speak to attendees
- Day 2 - Tuesday
  - Breakfast, Hill visits
  - Physicians meet with their two Senators and their Representative

Engaged Advocates

How to Get Involved?

- Respond to AAN Action Alerts
- Read Capitol Hill Report
- Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum
- Neurology on the Hill
- Host a congressional site visit
- Follow us on social media