



Legislative Update

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It is quieter during December through February in Washington D.C., where legislators are often at home with their constituencies and families; however, that does not stop AAAOM lobbyists Sam Brunelli and Beth Clay from continuing to promote AOM every chance they get. Both lobbyists have been meeting with the legislators and aides that are still in D.C., networking at dinners and events, and even meeting with President Obama himself. As our voice on Capitol Hill, no matter where they are, at the Capitol, on the subway, at a dinner, Brunelli and Clay take any opportunity they find to promote AOM.

The new health care reform bill that under construction is likely to call for preventive, low cost, effective medicine, which we all know AOM offers. We need to have the support behind HR646 so we can answer that call when it's announced.

How can our voice be heard? By speaking to our legislators. The letters and phone calls have been a wonderful starting point. Now it is time to meet our legislators *face to face*. Not just our lobbyists, but you, me, all of us—the practitioners and students of AOM.

Over the next month, while our legislators are in their own states, let's take advantage of this opportunity. State associations need to organize groups of practitioners to visit their state capitols, or you can arrange a visit yourself and bring friends, family, and all supporters of AOM.

What do we need to ask for? More co-sponsors of HR 646. We still need about 40 more, and this is a crucial first step to move the bill forward to committee and then to the House floor for a vote.

- To access the current list of co-sponsors and full text, [please follow this link](#).
- Please contact members of the Energy and Commerce Health Committee and ask them to sponsor by [clicking here](#).

- Ask your Senator to sponsor a companion bill by [clicking here](#).
- Ask your Representatives to co-sponsor by [clicking here](#).
- For questions about HR646 please follow this link for the [Medicare Fact Book](#).
- Want promotional materials to take with you when meeting your legislators? Contact the AAAOM at info@aaaomonline.org.

As important as it is to make contact with our legislators, it is just as important to have a very strong and large professional organization that stands up for us in health care negotiations. Your [membership in the AAAOM](#) is critical. Legislators will not take us seriously if we do not have all the practitioners supporting it. Whether or not you choose to utilize the insurance model for your business is irrelevant; what is relevant is choice. Not just choice for us as practitioners, but choice for our patients. Let's take a step towards that choice together—**starting today**.

Do you have questions or want to get more involved in the AAAOM political efforts? Contact the National Government Affairs Committee, [Michael Jabbour](#).