BrainPAC 101

BrainPAC is the only federal political action committee that specifically represents neurology, and allows the AAN to increase the influence and profile of neurology on Capitol Hill. With BrainPAC’s support, the AAN informs lawmakers on a number of legislative issues important to the profession of neurology.

What exactly is a political action committee (or PAC)?
A PAC is a term for a political action committee organized for the purpose of raising money to elect or defeat candidates. PACs are formed by all kinds of organizations, ranging from business, to labor, to other various political interests. Donations to PACs are used to help re-elect or elect candidates who might have a favorable view towards the organizations’ specific interest or concern.

Why should I donate to BrainPAC?
Your contribution will help to elect “brain-friendly” legislators who share our concerns about treating neurologic disorders. It will support candidates for Congress who have proven their commitment to issues that matter most to neurologists and their patients. Once you are a BrainPAC donor, you may have the opportunity to attend fundraisers for local members of Congress or candidates, as seen in the photos below.

Where does the money for a PAC (and for BrainPAC) come from?
PACs raise their money from members of the organization they represent. For BrainPAC, only AAN members who are US citizens or permanent residents are eligible to donate. BrainPAC’s success would not be possible without their generous voluntary support, since federal law prohibits the AAN from using membership dues for this purpose.

Only voluntary personal (non-business) contributions can be used to help support candidates for Congress. No personal donations to BrainPAC are used for administrative expenses.

Donate Today!
BrainPAC.org

Contributions to BrainPAC are not deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to BrainPAC are strictly voluntary, and you have the right to refuse to contribute without any reprisal. Federal election law requires the AAN to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed $200 in a calendar year.

Voluntary political contributions by individuals to BrainPAC are limited to $5,000 per calendar year and should be made with personal funds, which are used to benefit political candidates and activities on a national level that support neurology. Funds received from corporations, partnerships, or nonmembers are used to defray administrative expenses of BrainPAC.
What Is Advocacy?

"Protecting yourself, protecting your colleagues, and protecting your patients."

—Jeremy Cutsforth-Gregory, MD

AAN Priority Issues

- Cognitive reimbursement
- Neuroscience research funding
- Reducing regulatory burdens
- Medical liability reform
- GME financing
- Telemedicine
- Medical marijuana research
- Scope of practice issues
- Neuroimaging
- MACRA implementation
- Drug pricing and access
- Opioid issues
How Does AAN Advocacy Work?

### Regulatory Advocacy

The AAN is constantly developing relationships with key agencies such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Food & Drug Administration to influence ongoing regulations that impact the practice of neurology, including reimbursement.

### Case Study: Regulatory Relief

The AAN continues to work with Congress and government agencies to implement legislation and regulations that ease administrative burdens on neurologists.

- The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included several improvements to the Quality Payment Program under MACRA. The legislation eliminates MIPS payment adjustments for Part B drugs to protect patient access to vital medications. It also provides flexibility in the cost component in MIPS to reduce unfair penalties.

- Congress passed comprehensive opioids legislation in 2018 that included the Standardizing Electronic Prior Authorization (ePA) for Safe Prescribing Act, which streamlines ePA in Medicare. AAN advocates at Neurology on the Hill highlighted the burdens of prior authorization on patients and physicians and touted the bill as a step in the right direction. Because of ongoing advocacy, the bill was included in the opioids package.

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Neil A. Busis, MD, FAAN represented the neurology voice at a key CMS leadership meeting regarding the proposed consolidation of E/M codes.
**Payer Advocacy**

The AAN works with commercial payers to develop and improve medical coverage policies for neurology services.

- In response to the proposal to consolidate evaluation and management (E/M) codes, the AAN worked with Congress, CMS, and other stakeholders to oppose the change and communicate the negative impact on neurologic care. Hundreds of meetings, letters, and emails to legislators, key government staff, and patient groups were crucial to voice the neurology perspective.

- More than 100 members of Congress sent a letter to CMS urging it to provide guidance to Medicare Advantage plans regarding the use of prior authorization to ensure that these requirements do not create inappropriate regulatory hassles and barriers to care for Medicare patients.

**How Do You Get Involved?**

**ADVOCACY ACTION CENTER**

Take a minute to reply to Action Alert emails, where you can directly contact your state and federal legislators on issues important to neurology.

**NEUROLOGY ON THE HILL**

Apply to our annual event in Washington, DC, where 200 neurologists meet face to face with their members of Congress.

**NEUROLOGY OFF THE HILL**

Engage with your members of Congress in local events and activities such as hosting a tour of your practice.

**PALATUCCI ADVOCACY LEADERSHIP FORUM**

Apply to the weekend training conference to learn media and advocacy skills.

**STAY INFORMED**

Read Capitol Hill Report, our biweekly email newsletter, and follow @AANMember and #AANadvocacy on social media.

**LEARN MORE**

Contact advocacy@aan.com.