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### **Your Government Affairs Team is Working Hard During this Historic Election Year**

The AAO's "Responsible Additions and Increases to Sustain Employee (RAISE) Health Benefits Act of 2015" (RAISE Act) would provide opportunities for all American families to better manage healthcare costs, while also allowing them to save for future medical expenses. If the RAISE Act becomes law, (1) the current \$2,550 cap on patient FSAs (flexible spending accounts) would be increased to \$5,000, (2) that new \$5,000 cap could then be increased by another \$500 for each employee dependent above two dependents, and (3) the yearly "use-it-or-lose-it" rule would be extinguished, allowing any unused FSA funds to be carried over into perpetuity. Knowing these benefits, the AAO had its federal lobbyist draft the Act and is now pleased to see its continuous progress in Congress. Since the AAO's Professional Advocacy Conference earlier this year, the AAO's RAISE Act has gained momentum in the House and the Senate. Within the months following the Advocacy Conference, 22 bipartisan House Members agreed to sign onto the House bill (H.R. 1185), bringing the current total to 76 cosponsors. In July, 2016, Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) introduced the RAISE Act in the Senate before Congress went on recess.

### **AAOPAC Update**

Since January 1, 2016, the AAO Constituencies have raised:

1. SAO \$66,006
2. MSO \$36,931
3. SWSO \$29,354
4. PCSO \$27,035
5. NESO \$21,418
6. GLAO \$19,654
7. RMSO \$15,280
8. MASO \$14,204

During this two-year election cycle, AAOPAC has already contributed over \$200,000.00 to more than 50 federal candidates and plans to contribute even more. "AAOPAC contributes to policy makers whose views are consistent with the goals of the orthodontic specialty," says Rick Pfeffer, the AAOPAC Board Member who represents the GLAO. Decisions on which candidates to support are made by the AAOPAC Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from the constituent organizations and liaisons from the AAO Board of Trustees and the Council on Governmental Affairs. The Board reviews policy positions, votes taken on issues of importance to the AAO, as well as leadership roles and committees of jurisdiction. AAO leaders, staff, and legislative counsel work to educate legislators about the economic importance of the orthodontic specialty and how policies and proposed legislation impact orthodontists and orthodontic patients. The repeal of the medical device tax and the RAISE Act are just two examples of the impact the orthodontic profession is having on Congress.