



Council on Government Advocacy (COGA) Report

February 2026

We are getting ready for The Professional Advocacy Conference to be held in Washington, DC on March 17-18th. Attendees will be introduced to AAO Advocacy and our bipartisan Orthodontic Policy Priorities for our patients and members. Members of Congress will address the attendees on the first day and at the reception following the program. The second day we meet with our groups in the morning and get ready for our meetings that day on Capitol Hill. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the AAOPAC to allow us to meet with members of Congress and advocate for our patients and members.

COGA has an in-person meeting right before the conference and a virtual meeting during the year. The council is currently reviewing the AAO's AI in Clinical Orthodontics Position Paper. We I review and approve new candidates for the AAO National Advocacy Network. Participating in the National Advocacy Network is a great way to get involved and there is a place for you.

Be sure to read AAO publication, **The Advocate**, and visit the quarterly Advocacy Dashboard online to keep up with our advocacy efforts.

I am thankful to serve,

Valerie Martone
COGA, Chair