



Advocacy Updates 2025 Panel Discussion



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OCTOBER 11, 2025 • CENTRAL BANK CENTER • LEXINGTON, KY



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Affairs Manager
**American College of
Cardiology**



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10 Ways ACC Advocacy is Fighting For CV Clinicians and Patients

ACC's advocacy efforts are laser-focused on establishing sustainable Medicare payment practices, fostering care transformation and optimization, bolstering the clinician workforce now and for the future, and championing access to care for all.

Guided by these policy themes, the ACC is tracking key issues at the federal and state level and implementing sound strategies to secure significant victories to benefit both cardiovascular clinicians and patients.

1. Progress on Long-Term Medicare Reform

The ACC continues to push for legislative solutions to foster long-term sustainable Medicare payment reform, strongly supporting legislation to provide an inflationary update to the physician fee schedule as well as efforts to increase the budget neutrality threshold.

2. Growing Bipartisan Support For Prior Auth Bill

Efforts to solidify common sense prior authorization reforms in Medicare Advantage programs through legislation like the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act* has secured majority bipartisan support in Congress. ACC State Chapters have also seen major victories in reducing the administrative burden of prior authorization, most recently in

Maryland and New Jersey.

3. Telehealth Flexibilities For Cardiac Rehab

The *Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehab Services in the Home Act* is a priority for the ACC, which would allow cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services to be furnished via telehealth at a patient's home under Medicare. The College also successfully advocated for the extension of direct supervision of cardiac rehabilitation via telehealth and permission for practitioners to use their office address when providing telehealth services from their home through 2025.

4. Bolstering the Clinician Workforce

To increase Medicare-supported Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots, especially to specialties and geographic areas with the greatest need, the ACC supports the *Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act*, which would add 14,000 Medicare-supported GME slots.

5. Championing Access to Care For All

The ACC celebrated the passage of the *Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act*, which extended federal funding for congenital heart disease research, surveillance and awareness initiatives through 2029,

as well as the *Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Research and Training in the Schools (HEARTS) Act*, funding cardiomyopathy awareness initiatives and supporting the placement of AEDs in schools, along with CPR and AED training.

6. Impact of ACC Legislative Conference

More than 470 cardiovascular clinicians attended last year's ACC Legislative Conference, participating in more than 250 meetings with lawmakers and their staff. Following the conference, ACC Advocacy saw a 30% increase in signatories for the Medicare payment relief letter circulating in the U.S. House of Representatives.

7. HeartPAC: Forging Connections With Lawmakers

In the 2024 election, more than 93% of HeartPAC-supported congressional candidates won their races, and 96% of HeartPAC funds supported winning campaigns. HeartPAC will continue to support congressional champions of cardiovascular care.

8. Noncompete Reform in the States

Multiple states attempted to ban noncompetes and restrictive covenants for health care professionals in 2024. In fact, ACC's Maryland Chapter won a long, hard-

fought battle by passing H.B. 1388, severely restricting most noncompete agreements in the state.

9. Transitioning to Value-Based Care

The ACC held its sixth annual Value-Based Care in Cardiology Forum in December 2024, working to facilitate the implementation of models that prioritize high-quality care and learning from practical examples of collaboration between primary care and cardiology through incentive-based arrangements.

10. Expanding Payer Coverage

Major national payers including Aetna, Cigna and Elevance Health increased their coverage for ablation in response to a joint letter led by the ACC and Heart Rhythm Society. Additionally, Policy changes from Aetna, Humana and prior authorization vendor EviCore were established following a multisociety effort advocating for appropriate coverage for IVUS and atherectomy used to treat peripheral artery disease in lower extremities. ■



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Physicians Caring for Kentucky

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KMA Advocacy

Action Center

Identify and contact your legislators

[Click Here](#)

2025 KMA Legislative Priorities

View current legislative agenda

[Click Here](#)

2025 Advocacy Achievement Report

Review recent advocacy successes

[Click Here](#)

Kentucky Physicians Political Action Committee (KPPAC)

KMA Advocacy Resources

Additional information to enhance advocacy efforts



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Prior Authorization Reform



Support Prior Authorization Reform, Pass House Bill 423

Prior authorization (PA) is a health plan cost-control process that requires health care professionals to obtain advance approval from the health plan before a prescription medication or medical service qualifies for payment and can be delivered to the patient. To assess the ongoing impact the PA process has on patients, physicians, employers and overall health care spending, the American Medical Association (AMA) annually conducts a nationwide survey of 1,000 practicing physicians. As this year's findings demonstrate, the PA process continues to have a devastating effect on patient outcomes, physician burnout and employee productivity.



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H.R. 1 The One Big Beautiful Bill Act

Include but are not limited to:

Medicaid

Affordable Care
Act Marketplace

Federal Support
of Student
Loans

Medicare
Physician
Payment Reform

Rural Health

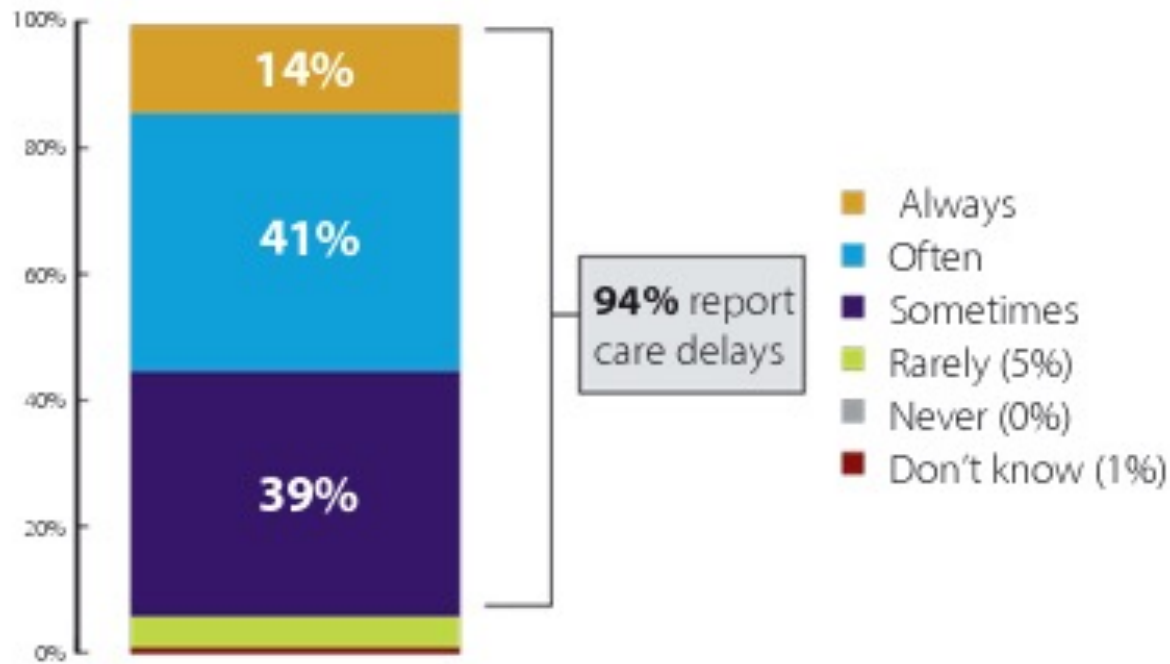


Impacts of Prior Authorization

Graphics obtained from KMA House Bill 423 document

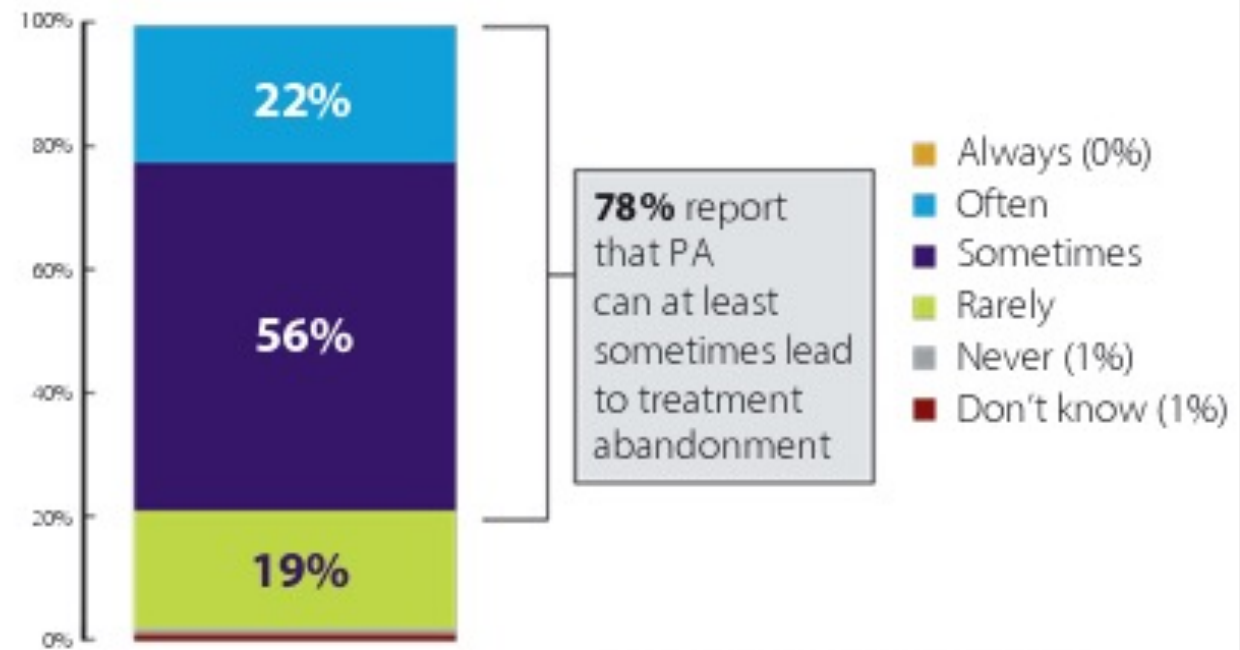
Care delays associated with PA

Q: For those patients whose treatment requires PA, how often does this process delay access to necessary care?



Treatment abandonment due to PA

Q: How often do issues related to the PA process lead to patients abandoning their recommended course of treatment?



Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.



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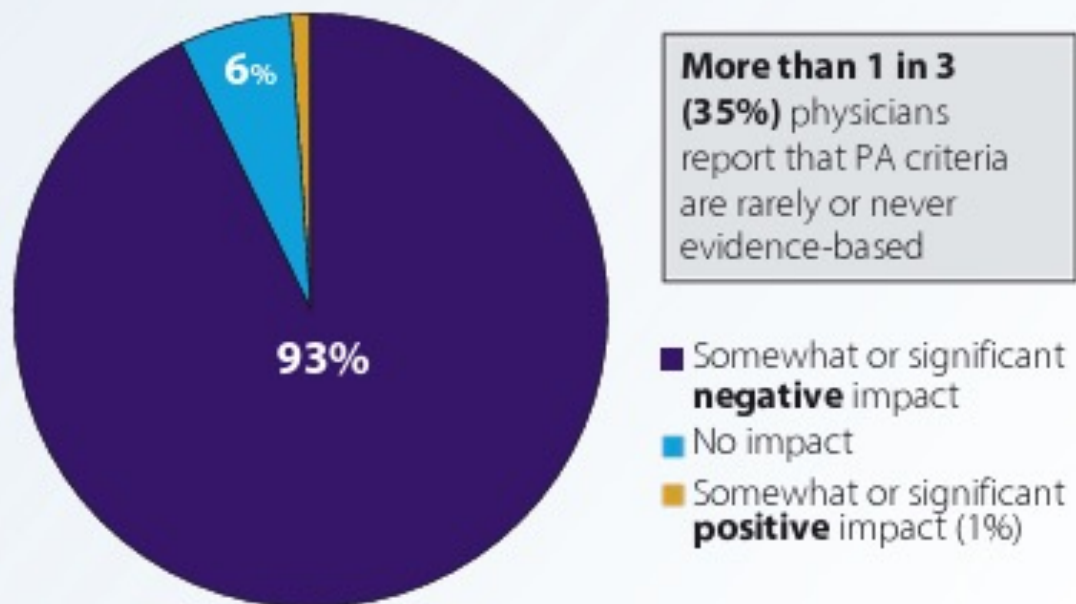
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Impacts of Prior Authorization

Graphics obtained from KMA House Bill 423 document

Impact of PA on clinical outcomes

Q: For those patients whose treatment requires PA, what is your perception of the overall impact of this process on patient clinical outcomes?



(Survey completed by the American Medical Association, 2024)

PA appeals

Fewer than

1 in 5 (18%)

physicians report that they **always** appeal an adverse PA decision

Why don't physicians appeal?

62%

report that they do not believe the appeal will be successful based on past experience

48%

report that patient care cannot wait for the health plan to approve the PA

48%

report that they have insufficient practice staff resources/time



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KMA Resources on Bills
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Protocols and Biomarker
Testing Coverage

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How a Bill Becomes
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Legislative Research
Commission Website

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<https://kyma.org/kma-resources/>



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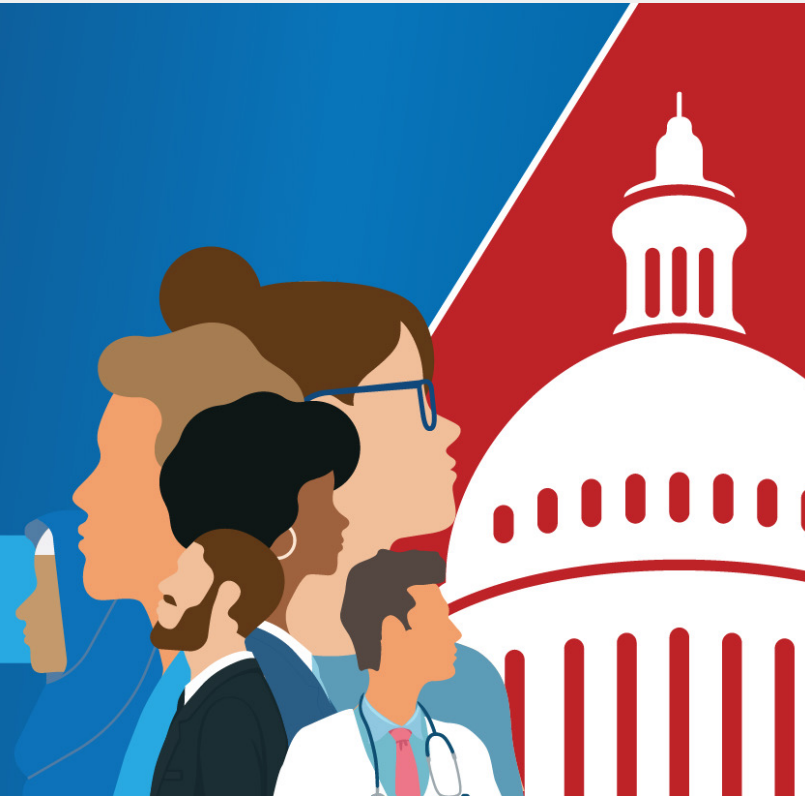
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ACC Key Priorities 2025

Enact Long-term Reform of Medicare Payment System

- **Cost** of running practice **increased by 60%** over the last two decades, Medicare **reimbursement decreased by 33%** accounting for inflation
- Created financial uncertainty for health systems, increasing **gaps** in care delivery, **esp. in underserved areas**



ACC Key Priorities 2025

Maintain Critical Telehealth Flexibilities

- Creating Opportunities Now for Necessary and Effective Care Technologies (CONNECT) for Health Act (H.R. 4206/ S. 1261)
- ACC supports a **permanent extension of telehealth flexibilities** to improve **health outcomes** and increase **medical access** via telemedicine



ACC Key Priorities 2025

Streamline Prior Authorization Practices

- Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2025 (H.R. 3514/S. 1816)
- **Codify prior authorization rule** to reduce unnecessary PA requirements to **reduce** administrative **burden**, **delayed care**, and avoid **severe adverse event** for patients



ACC Key Priorities 2025

Improve Access to Maternal Monitoring Tools

- Connected Maternal Online Monitoring (MOM) Act (H.R. 4977/S. 141)
- Provide **coverage** for **remote monitoring** devices for early detection and management of **complications for pregnant and postpartum women**
- Enhance **coordination** between obstetric and cardiovascular care teams



ACC Key Priorities 2025

Provide Financial Relief for Residents

- Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act (H.R. 2028/S. 942)
- Provide **interest-free deferment of student loans during residency and fellowship training** to reduce financial hardships



ACC Key Priorities 2025

Maintain Access to CV Rehabilitation Services

- H.R.783/S. 248 - Sustainable Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Services in the Home Act
- Enhance **access** to cardiopulmonary **rehabilitation at home** for patients with **mobility** issues or in **rural areas**





Legislative Efforts

ACC Advocacy seeks to advance the College's mission of improving the cardiovascular wellbeing of the nation through interactions with Congress, federal government agencies, state legislative and regulatory bodies, private insurers, and other policy making groups. By advocating for a quality driven health care system, provider stability, population health and the future of cardiovascular medicine, the ACC is leading the transformation of care.

Kentucky Advocacy Initiatives:

KY-ACC is committed to advancing public policy initiatives that advance access to care as well as improving the health of Kentuckians. To that end we continue to partner with the American Heart Association, Kentucky Medical Association, and other groups to promote a legislative agenda that will achieve these goals.

Important Links:

- [National ACC Advocacy page](#)
- [Who are my Legislators?](#)
- [Kentucky Medical Association](#)
- [American Heart Association – Louisville Affiliate](#)
- [Get Involved](#) – Email the KY-ACC office to join the Advocacy Committee.

<https://kentuckyacc.org/resources/legislative-efforts>



Restrictive Covenants and Noncompetes

An ACC Advocacy Journey



B. Hadley Wilson, MD, FACC, *President, American College of Cardiology*
Joseph E. Marine, MD, MBA, FACC, *Chair, ACC Membership Committee*,
J. Jeffrey Marshall, MD, FACC, *Chair, ACC Board of Governors Work
Group on Restrictive Covenants*



What employed physicians should know about noncompete clauses

FEB 21, 2024

Tanya Albert Henry
Contributing News Writer



Physician contracting: Restrictive covenants, termination clauses

FEB 4, 2025



Senate Bill 234

Last Action: 2/20/25: to Judiciary (S)

Title: AN ACT relating to non-compete clauses

Summary: Create a new section of KRS Chapter 337 to define terms; make non-compete clauses unenforceable, and provide notice requirements



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One of 2024 KMA Resolutions

Encourages and supports legislation that requires coverage of Coronary Calcium Scoring CT testing

Kentucky is the 6th highest state with atheromatous heart disease

Clinical ASCVD in Kentucky is 12.4% vs. national average 9.1%

Risk factors are common for Kentuckians with 24.6% smokers and 37% obese



https://www.acc.org/tools-and-practice-support/advocacy-at-the-acc



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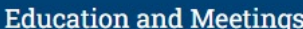
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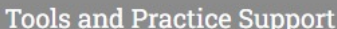
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 - ACC Legislative Conference
 - ACC Political Action Committee
- + Cardiology as a Career Path
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ADVOCACY



Cardiovascular disease is the number one cause of death and the leading driver of health care costs in the U.S.

We own the problem. We must own the solution.

Latest Advocacy News



State Government Affairs Support for Chapters

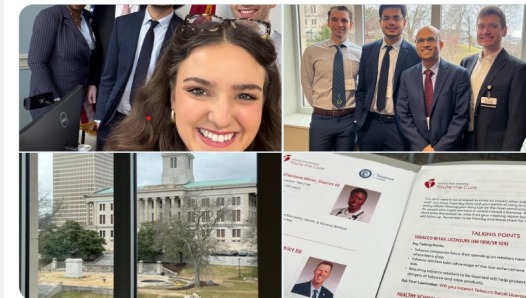
SGA Lead: Michael Lawrence

- 50 State Bill Tracking
- Grassroots Action Alerts
- Legislative testimony
- Issue briefs and regulatory comments
- Organizing/attending state lobby days
- Legislative Practice Visit Program
- Recruiting new advocates
- Press coverage; member Op-eds, LTE, podcasts, etc...
- Appointments to state health care boards and commissions
- Letters from ACC national supporting chapter position



Neel Patel, MD
@NPatelMD

Great day advocating for heart health at Tennessee State Capitol!
@AHAScience @Cardiology @ACCinTouch @timir_paul @kerrigil
@MackennaDarling #heartatthecapitol #CardioTwitter



Urgent Call to Action: Protect Cardiovascular Workforce and Oppose SB 1281

Dear PA-ACC Colleagues,

The Pennsylvania Senate Licensure Committee is set to move forward with **Senate Bill 1281** during the week of **September 16th**, and we need your help to ensure that the voices of cardiologists and cardiovascular team members are heard loud and clear!

The bill puts additional, unnecessary license burdens on our medical imaging professionals and **does not** account for the unique role of CV techs which could lead to a workforce shortage in our field, longer wait times - negative impacts on patients. PA-ACC Leadership has been in contact with most major health systems and we are very concerned.

How You Can Help:

Contact your state senator (especially if you're in **Chairman Stefano's** or **Chairman Boscola's** districts) and urge them to oppose the bill unless cardiovascular technologists and professionals are exempt.

Make your voice heard before it's too late!

Sincerely,
Ross Peterson, MD, FACC

Compose Your Message

• State Senator
Subject
Please Oppose SB 1281

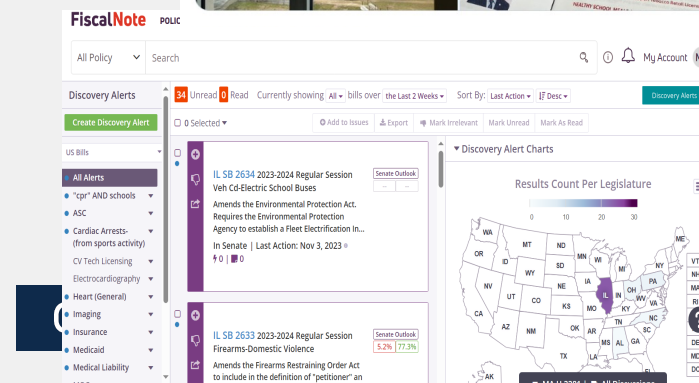
Message Body

I am writing you as a member of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (PA-ACC). I urge you to oppose SB 1281 as currently written. This bill would unnecessarily impose a State...

Enter Your Info

Your Information
First Name * Last Name *

☐ Yes, sign me up to receive text alerts.



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Legislator Practice Visit Program

- Provides lawmakers the opportunity to witness first-hand how the CV care team provides patient care
- Visits can be hosted in a variety of settings, including academic centers, hospitals, clinics, and private practices
- Visits can be scheduled for both federal and state lawmakers
- **To get started, contact**
 - Anjana Parashar (aparashar@acc.org) for visits with federal lawmakers or
 - Erin Bailey (ebailey@acc.org) for visits with state lawmakers



HeartPAC

ACC's HeartPAC is the Cardiology Party



- ✓ Investing in congressional champions
- ✓ Acting on cardiology issues
- ✓ Supporting the future of cardiovascular care

HeartPAC is non-partisan, member-led and member-driven. Through the support of clinicians like you, the Cardiology Party has worked to represent your professional interests on Capitol Hill for over 20 years.

Learn more at HeartPAC.org



Contribute to HeartPAC Today!

Now is the time to get involved, and becoming a HeartPAC member is a great place to start.

Become a member of HeartPAC **today** by making your contribution online at [**HeartPAC.org**](https://HeartPAC.org) or text 'HeartPAC' to 41444.



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