



AAO Council on Governmental Advocacy
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Orthodontists have health and safety concerns about direct-to consumer orthodontic treatment. Teledentistry laws govern the practice of dentistry not occurring in an office/clinic setting. Teledentistry laws and language vary greatly from state to state. COGA and the AAO Advocacy team are working hard to create model language to ensure that a patient must have, at minimum, an in-person exam before beginning orthodontic treatment. At our last in person meeting in February, COGA reviewed and gave input on proposed model teledentistry language. Model language for teledentistry allows the AAO Advocacy team to propose and help write teledentistry laws in the states. While Smile Direct is no longer in business, other players are trying to fill that void and we are vigilantly watching action in the states.

The Advocacy team has had some major successes over the last year. Model teledentistry language was passed in Nevada, passed the Senate and House in Florida (awaiting Gov. DeSantis's approval), passed the Senate and House in Georgia (vetoed by Gov. Kemp), passed the Senate and waiting in the House in Illinois. We are currently working on legislation in Pennsylvania.

There are many ways to get involved with advocacy. We need your help in each state to continue our grass roots efforts. Many roles need to be filled in the National Advocacy Network and there is a job for anyone interested. Please continue to support our advocacy efforts by contributing to the AAOPAC. By the way, the AAOPAC Lounge at the 2024 Annual Session was a lot of fun! We recognized our military members, watched the Kentucky Derby, gave out free coffee, freshly baked cookies, snacks, provided charging stations and comfy chairs to give your feet a rest. The Professional Advocacy Conference will take place March 11-12, 2025.

Thank you for the honor of serving on COGA.

Respectfully submitted,

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GLAO Representative to the AAO Council on Governmental Advocacy

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