



## Grassroots Advocacy Update September 15, 2021

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### Federal Grassroots Activity

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#### ACR/CSRO

- ACR and CSRO have led federal grassroots advocacy efforts. PRS lobbyist, along with PRS President, Dr. Denio and PRS Advocacy Committee Chair, Dr. Killian, collaborate on a regular basis to maximize our Society's efforts at the federal level.
- In late July, CSRO drafted a formal request to the US Departments of Health/Human Services, Labor, and Office of Personnel Management to clarify certain provisions related to implementation of Section 204 of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021*.
- CSRO's State Society Advocacy Conference was held **VIRTUALLY** on September 11<sup>th</sup>.
  - PRS President Denio and our lobbyist attended the all-day event.
  - Six presentations were made during the day:
    - Federal Issues Impacting Rheumatologists and their Patients.
    - Hide and Seek with Rebates- What's Next for Rutledge?
    - Cross-Specialty Collaboration: Oncology and Rheumatology Working Together for Patient Access to Care.
    - Advocacy at the State Level- A Panel Discussion.
    - NCPA Lawsuit Overview: DIR Fees; and
    - Looking Ahead- A Forecast for Rheumatologists in America.
  - Dr. Madeline Feldman, President of CSRO, commenced the CSRO Annual Business meeting after the event. CSRO elections were held, and additional business was discussed.
  - Information is available on the CSRO website (educational materials within the library).
- Additional updates can be found at <https://www.rheumatology.org/Advocacy/Federal-Advocacy/Key-Issues> (ACR) or at <https://csro.info/advocacy.html> (CSRO).

#### PRS-RELATED FEDERAL ACTIVITY

- At the request of the Fracture Prevention Coalition, PRS signed onto a letter thanking US Senators Cardin and Collins for introducing S.1943 (the Increasing Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act of 2021).
- PRS Advocacy Committee Chair Dr. Killian forwarded an article to our lobbyist informing her that CMS intends to rescind the former Administration's interim rule creating Most Favored Nation (MFN) for Medicare Part B recipients. A link to the article is included here: [CMS nixes 'most-favored nation' pricing model for Medicare Part B \(healio.com\)](#)

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## PRS Grassroots Advocacy Priorities

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- Senate Bill 196 and House Bill 1644 (Co-Pay Accumulator)
  - CRSO Government Relations Director and PRS lobbyist continue to meet to discuss PA Strategy and other related issues.
  - PRS and CRSO are active partners in the PA Make All Copays Count Coalition (Coalition), meetings with key House and Senate Insurance Committee staffers, and the staff of Senator Judy Ward to attempt to move these bills throughout the state legislature.
  - PRS lobbyist has touched base personally and within a group setting with key members of the Pennsylvania Insurance Department (DOI) to solicit their input on the directive.
    - Draft amendments by DOI were circulated to Senator Ward's office, Representative Gleim's office (sponsor of House Bill 1644), and to Coalition members for their review and comments.
    - After careful deliberation by the Coalition, it was decided that the DOI amended version is unacceptable. Areas that are non-negotiable for Coalition members include exceptions language and the addition of "Creditable Drug Coverage" provisions.
    - It was suggested that the Coalition forward enacted co-pay accumulator language from Arizona to DOI for their input as a potential alternative.
  - Updates will be given as available.

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## Pennsylvania General Assembly Session Update 2021-2022 Session

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Legislative Watch list is **attached**.

*Potential bills/areas of interest:*

- Senate Bill 100 (Patient Access to Additional Treatments for Lyme Disease) was introduced on August 11<sup>th</sup>. **The bill is enclosed for your review**. Please let me know if you have concerns about this bill or if we want to take a position.
- With the enactment of the constitutional referendum passed by Pennsylvania voters related to COVID-19/governor's public emergency declaration, numerous state regulations and policies suspended during the declaration will be reinstated in late September. PRS lobbyist created a comprehensive analysis for members. **Information is enclosed to this update**.

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## General Assembly Session Dates

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### **2021 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE**

September 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29  
October 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27  
November 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17  
December 13, 14, 15

### **2021 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE**

September 27, 28, 29  
October 4, 5, 6, 25, 26, 27

November 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17

December 13, 14, 15