



NCCAOM ASA Town Hall

State of the Profession:

Where Do We Go from Here?

January 18, 2023

Questions were submitted at the Town Hall and answered by

Molly Giammarco, MPP,
Director of Policy & Government Relations (NCCAOM)[®]

Olivia Hsu Friedman, Chair, ASA

[Town Hall recording](#)

[Power Point Slides](#)



Table of Contents

Q1: Do you or any organization have letters or informational PDF's we can obtain and send to patients, our physician contacts, and others to summarize this issue and tell them what they can do?**3**

Q2: Is there a website we can refer people to so they can read this issue and have links to immediately contact their Reps & Senators about this?**3**

Q3: Will you announce when the new bill gets introduced? Telling us when to act and verifying what to say, where to text, etc.?**3**

Q4: Can we get the names of the people in the Committees?**4**

Q5: Is there anything we can do to prepare our patients to be ready to submit testimony or to contact their legislators, so we are ready to go when it is introduced?**4**

Q6: There are many professionals and practitioners working hard on legislation and this same bill. How can we bring everyone together to work and fight as one?**4**

Q7: In which season is the bill expected to be introduced, approximately?**5**

Q8: Why not blast the cell numbers of every licensed acupuncturists in the nation to get them to do this?**5**

Q9: Why don't you actually ask working professionals and members of the ASA what would help us in our practices, vs going after these legislative goals without being in touch with what we actually need?**5**

Q1: Do you or any organization have letters or informational PDF's we can obtain and send to patients, our physician contacts, and others to summarize this issue and tell them what they can do?

A1: The ASA and the NCCAOM have fact sheets about the *Acupuncture for our Seniors Act* on their websites:

ASA: <https://www.asacu.org/>

NCCAOM: <https://www.nccaom.org/advocacy-regulatory/medicare-initiative/>

The ASA and the NCCAOM will provide more fact sheets for acupuncturists, patients, and others when the *Acupuncture for our Seniors Act* is re-introduced in 2023.

Q2: Is there a website we can refer people to so they can read this issue and have links to immediately contact their Reps & Senators about this?

A2: Yes. The ASA and the NCCAOM have fact sheets and background information on their effort to obtain Medicare recognition for the profession through the *Acupuncture for our Seniors Act* on their websites:

ASA: <https://www.asacu.org/>

NCCAOM: <https://www.nccaom.org/advocacy-regulatory/medicare-initiative>

Q3: Will you announce when the new bill gets introduced? Telling us when to act and verifying what to say, where to text, etc.?

A3: Yes--the ASA and the NCCAOM will keep the profession updated on the *Acupuncture for our Seniors Act's* re-introduction and progress, as well as ways to get involved. One way to get involved now is to register for the ASA's 2023 Annual Conference (May 13-14) in Washington, DC and participate in the Hill Day on May 15 to promote the bill. More information about the Conference is here:

<https://www.asacu.org/2022/12/join-the-asa-2023-live-in-person-conference-envisioning-our-future/>

Q4: Can we get the names of the people in the Committees?

A4: The House Energy & Commerce Committee and the House Ways & Means Committee have jurisdiction over Medicare policy--their membership rosters are available online.

Q5: Is there anything we can do to prepare our patients to be ready to submit testimony or to contact their legislators, so we are ready to go when it is introduced?

A5: It's important that your patients are aware of Medicare's current coverage and the ASA's and the NCCAOM's effort to increase access to your services. The ASA Patient Testimonial Toolkit (<https://www.asacu.org/2022/04/heres-how-your-patients-can-help-move-hr4803-patient-testimonial-kit>) is a great resource to help inform your patients about this effort, as well as help them to share their experiences with the care you provide with policymakers. The ASA and the NCCAOM also have fact sheets about the Acupuncture for our Seniors Act on their websites:
ASA: <https://www.asacu.org/>
NCCAOM: <https://www.nccaom.org/advocacy-regulatory/medicare-initiative/>
The ASA and the NCCAOM will provide more fact sheets for acupuncturists, patients, and others when the Acupuncture for our Seniors Act is re-introduced in 2023.

Q6: There are many professionals and practitioners working hard on legislation and this same bill. How can we bring everyone together to work and fight as one?

A6: The January 18, 2023, webinar discussed having a united voice when speaking to congress. We discussed that we welcome everyone to help, but it's important to follow the order of operations deemed acceptable by Congress because these actions will move the bill forward. John Richardson, our federal lobbyist, discussed many actions that could thwart forward movement of this bill. John, Molly and I all discussed the actions

and order of these actions that would move the bill forward. As long as people are following the order of operations deemed acceptable by Congress, our collective efforts will keep our voice unified, well-organized, and well-received by Congress which will then help not hinder our cause.

Q7: In which season is the bill expected to be introduced, approximately?

A7: We expect the bill to be re-introduced in the early months of 2023.

Q8: Why not blast the cell numbers of every licensed acupuncturists in the nation to get them to do this?

A8: We have a lot of plans for engaging the profession on the *Acupuncture for our Seniors Act* this year and plan to continue to use our software platform to enable everyone to use their phones to contact their U.S. Representatives about this bill. We will launch those efforts as the bill is re-introduced in the 118th Congress.

Q9: Why don't you actually ask working professionals and members of the ASA what would help us in our practices, vs going after these legislative goals without being in touch with what we actually need?

A9: The ASA currently represents 34 states, 36 state associations. Back in 2020, the ASA included a total of 34 state associations. On July 23, 2020, the ASA Member State Associations voted in favor of pursuing Medicare inclusion for licensed acupuncturists as practitioners. As practitioners, opt-out is approved. Out of 34 state member associations, the vote was 93% (28 votes) in favor of inclusion with no dissenting votes, 2 abstentions and 4 absences. This vote occurred after several educational webinars took place for all to attend and learn. Each delegate cast a vote based upon the membership of their state association.