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## **\$10 MILLION FOR O&P OUTCOMES RESEARCH INCLUDED IN CROMNIBUS BILL**

RAC Concerns also Addressed

Great news for O&P outcomes research! The \$1.1 trillion combined continuing resolution and omnibus appropriations bill (the "cromnibus" bill) enacted December 13 to keep the government running includes a Department of Defense (DoD) section with an additional \$10 million for O&P outcomes research funding. This was also included in last year's budget and we are especially grateful for AOPA lobbyist Catriona Macdonald, who has done such a spectacular job in transitioning this from a one-time item to being multi-year, and hopefully a mainstay of the federal budget! This is another good win for AOPA and its members. This news was especially impressive given how many cuts and other programs were squeezed out of the DoD portion of the bill. [Continue reading...](#)

## **AOPA SUBMITS COMMENTS ON OMHA'S ALJ BACKLOG AND INCREASED REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS**

AOPA Comments Specify that RAC Priorities Should be Refocused; CMS Should Offer O&P Providers a Voluntary Settlement Amount; Coordinated Efforts Needed by OMHA, HHS & CMS; and 3 Other Points Addressed

Following the October 29 Medicare Appellant Forum hosted by the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA), the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) opened a comment period to solicit suggestions for addressing the growth in the number of requests for Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hearings, and to help to clear the backlog of pending cases. [Continue reading...](#)

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2015 AOPA POLICY FORUM**

Mark March 23-25 in your Calendar to Make a Difference!

The Policy Forum is your best opportunity to learn the latest legislative and regulatory happenings and how they will affect you, your business and your patients. Once you are armed with the facts, we as a profession will educate our Members of Congress to offer common sense solutions and share how the O&P profession restores lives and puts people back to work. Your Congressional appointments will be organized by AOPA staff and lobbyists.



Join us **March 23-25** at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC. Stay tuned for more details!

## **EDITORIAL PUBLISHED ON MOBILITY SAVES RESEARCH PROVING O&P SAVES LIVES AND MONEY**

The Roanoke Times Published an Op-Ed Affirming O&P Care as Cost-Effective



AOPA immediate past-president Anita Liberman-Lampe of the University of Michigan Orthotics and Prosthetics Center has published an opinion [editorial](#) in the Roanoke Times on the Dobson-DaVanzo research, funded by AOPA and commissioned by the Amputee Coalition, that used Medicare's own data to prove that providing orthotics and prosthetics is cost-effective. The study was the basis for [Mobility Saves](#), the public relations campaign where we are spreading the word to O&P providers, referral sources, payors, and patients that O&P saves Lives and Money. Read the editorial [here](#).

## **SIGN UP FOR THE 2015 AOPA WEBINAR SERIES AND GET 2 FREE**

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January 14: Fill In the Blanks: VA Contracting and the New Template  
February 11: Find Success: Tips, Strategies and Understanding the Appeals Process  
March 11: Who Gets the Bill: A Complete Look at Medicare Inpatient Billing



[See the rest of the schedule and register here.](#)

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