

2022 UOAA Federal Advocacy Priorities

UOAA is the leading organization advocating for the 725,000 to 1,000,000 people living with an ostomy or continent diversion in the United States as well as the approximate 100,000 new patients facing ostomy surgery annually.

To support their constituents with an ostomy or continent diversion during the 117th congressional session we advocate for lawmakers to:

Protect the Patient-Provider Decision Making Process and Patient Access to Affordable Quality Care

- ⇒ Defend those with pre-existing conditions (such as ostomies) and ensure access to quality, affordable health care and ostomy prosthetic supplies
- ⇒ Support and defend the Ostomy and Continent Diversion Patient Bill of Rights
- ⇒ Address disparities in health care
- ⇒ Support inclusion of ostomy care services and supplies for independent living to age in place such as in home and community-based services under Medicaid

Preserve and Promote Access, Choice and Value for Consumers of Ostomy Prosthetic Supplies, Urological Products and Medical Treatments

- ⇒ Recognize that individuals require access to urological and ostomy prosthetic supplies that meet their specific medical needs, and that such products are not one-type-fits-all commodities
- ⇒ Ensure Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurers within state/federal health care marketplaces cover the full range of prescribed urological and ostomy prosthetic supplies, and do so in a manner that is not economically burdensome for the consumer
- ⇒ Curb third-party payor cost-shifting tactics such as non-medical switching, step therapy, or quantity limits, which can be devastating to patients and increase out-of-pocket costs for patients

UOAA also supports the passage of the following legislation:

- ⇒ **Safe Step Act (S464/H.R.2163)**: This is a balanced public policy proposal that works to reform step therapy. The bill requires that insurers implement a clear and transparent process for a patient or physician to request an exception to a step therapy protocol. It also requires a group health plan respond to an exemption request within 72 hours in all circumstances, and 24 hours if the patient's life is at risk
- ⇒ National designation of Ostomy Awareness Day on the first Saturday in October

The above list is not all-inclusive. We also support the public policy agendas of our partner coalitions such as the Access and Care Coalition (ACC), and the Digestive Diseases National Coalition (DDNC).

Contact: Jeanine Gleba, UOAA Advocacy Manager, advocacy@ostomy.org