

2023 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 new 118th congressional session we advocate for lawmakers to:

Protect and Enhance 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 the employment of specialty nursing positions such as ostomy care and remove barriers for people pursuing nursing and specialty nursing education. Facility staffing requirements especially in subacute facilities needs to improve to meet the needs of ostomy patients.

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 Federal legislation in this session as it gets reintroduced:

- ⇒ Safe Step Act (S652/HR2630)
- ⇒ Medical Nutrition Therapy Act
- ⇒ HELP Copays Act (S1375/HR830)

UOAA also supports the 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).

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