

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC) OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

Criteria for Making Political Contributions to Candidates (Last revised by PAC Executive Committee January 3, 2015)

LEVEL ONE

ORTHOPAEDISTS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS AND INCUMBENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ON KEY HEALTH CARE RELATED COMMITTEES

It is the philosophy of the Orthopaedic PAC to encourage and support orthopaedic surgeons that are Fellows in the AAOS, who run for Congress. The PAC also supports current members of Congress on key-health-care related Committees, members of Congress in leadership positions in the Senate and House of Representatives, physician members of Congress, and party organizations that embrace the viewpoint of the orthopaedic community and share our legislative goals.

Tier One - Orthopaedic Surgeons Running for Congress

Criteria for making contributions: The candidate should be a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and should be a consistent contributor to the AAOS PAC. The candidate should have a viable chance of winning and be able to demonstrate electability, for example that they have previously held elected public office. AAOS Office of Government Relations (OGR) staff should check with local orthopaedists and state societies to assess the candidate. If the candidate meets the previous criteria, he or she should be supported to the maximum by the PAC (\$5,000 in primary, \$5,000 in general). The PAC through the auspices of the Association should take other steps necessary and appropriate to aid the candidate (i.e. independent expenditures/express advocacy). OGR staff will provide information to the PAC Executive Committee for approval.

Tier One - House and Senate Leadership

Criteria for making contributions: OGR staff has discretion to make a contribution(s) of up to \$10,000 to members of Congress who fall into this category.

Key Leadership positions include:

House of Representatives

Speaker of the House
House Majority Leader
House Majority Whip
House Democratic Caucus Chair
Assistant to the Speaker
House Minority Leader
House Minority Whip

Senate

Senate Majority Leader
Senate Majority Whip
Senate Democratic Policy Committee Chair
Senate Democratic Conference Chair
Senate Minority Leader
Senate Minority Whip
Senate Republican Policy Committee Chair

House Republican Conference Chair
House Republican Policy Committee Chair
Assistant House Democratic Leader

Senate Republican Conference Chair

Tier One - Key Health Care Related Committees

Criteria for making contributions: OGR staff has discretion to make a contribution(s) of up to \$10,000 to key members of the Congress and Senate who fall into this category.

Key Health Care Committees include:

House Ways and Means Committee

- Special emphasis on the *Health subcommittee*.

House Energy and Commerce Committee

- Special emphasis on the *Subcommittee on Health and the Environment*

House Appropriations Committee

- special emphasis on the Subcommittee on *Labor-HHS-Education and Defense*

House Education and Workforce Committee

- Special emphasis on the *Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions*

Senate Finance Committee

Senate Health Education Labor and Pension Committee

Senate Appropriations Committee

- special emphasis on the *Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education*

Tier One – Members of Congress who are Physicians

Criteria for making contributions: So long as these individuals have a proven track record in supporting issues of the orthopaedic community, OGR staff has the discretion to make a contribution(s) of up to \$10,000 to members who fall into this category.

Tier One - Party Organizations

Criteria for making contributions: OGR staff can make an annual contribution of up to \$15,000 to the following Party Organizations:

National Republican Campaign Committee
Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
National Republican Senatorial Committee
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee

Republican National Committee
Democratic National Committee*

Republican Governor's Association*
Democratic Governor's Association*

*Could be considered during Presidential Election years.

*Not currently accepting PAC contributions.

LEVEL TWO

Tier Two - Other Committees which may from time to time handle health care issues

Criteria for making contributions: Based on input from OGR staff about the Congressional member's voting record as it pertains to issues directly affecting the orthopaedic community and patients, the PAC Executive Committee will review staff's recommendation for contributions to Congressional members who fall into this category. If an objection is made by a member of the PAC Executive Committee, the contribution and amount will be re-considered by the full PAC Executive Committee. The PAC Executive Committee must approve all or any contribution(s) in excess of \$2,500.

Committees in Tier Two, include:
The Senate Special Committee on Aging
The Senate Judiciary Committee
The House Veterans Affairs Committee
The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee
The House Armed Services Committee
The House Science Committee

Tier Two – Assist key champions from Tier One raise money for other members

Criteria for making contributions: Additional consideration should be given to members of Congress supported by key AAOS champions (as identified under Tier One criteria). Helping AAOS' legislative champions raise money for other members of Congress who are also favorable to AAOS policy positions is a powerful way to increase our stature with the champion from a friend to a smaller, more elite group of supporters. Aside from strengthening ties with our strongest supporters this is one of the best ways to obtain exposure to newer members who are either rising stars within a policy area or Committee. Contributions through this bundling activity will only be made upon approval from the PAC Executive Committee.

LEVEL THREE

Tier Three - All other Members of Congress

Criteria for making contributions: To encourage participation in the political process,

if the request comes from a PAC contributor who is a Member of the AAOS Board of Directors, Member of the Council on Advocacy, Board of Councilors, or Board of Specialty Societies, a Committee Chair, or any member of the AAOS who is an active member in the orthopaedic political action committee can be made with the PAC Executive Committee's approval.

Tier Three - SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE ORTHOPAEDIC COMMUNITY (Challengers and Open Seats)

Requests Made by a PAC member who is also a member of the Board of Directors, Board of Councilors, Council on Advocacy, or Council/Committee Chair

Criteria for making contributions: OGR staff will check with local orthopaedists, assess feasibility of the candidacy, including negative impact of opposing an incumbent and relay the information to the PAC Executive Committee along with a recommendation. All contributions to candidates in this category must be approved by the PAC Executive Committee.

Request made by a contributor to the Orthopaedic PAC

Criteria for making contributions: OGR staff will check with local orthopaedists and state societies, and assess the electability and viability of the candidacy. Contribution amount can be up to \$1,000, and be made with the approval of the PAC Executive Committee after 48-hour notification.

Tier Three - LEADERSHIP PACS

OGR staff should carefully evaluate each request for a contribution to a leadership PAC of a member of Congress, a partisan leadership PAC, or an organizational leadership PAC. OGR staff has the discretion to make a contribution(s) of up to \$5,000 to the leadership PAC of members of Congress who are in key leadership positions or are on a key health care committee, partisan leadership PACs in which these individuals are members, or organizational leadership PACs that these members support. For leadership PACs that do not fall into any of those categories, approval by the PAC Executive Committee is required.

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES/EXPRESS ADVOCACY

After detailed and required analysis by OGR staff and a determination that sufficient funds are available, the PAC Executive Committee may approve the PAC's use of its receipts for independent expenditures or express advocacy, so long as this expenditure is consistent with Federal election laws. These independent expenditures may include, but are not limited to: in-district polling; telephone banks; mailings; and newspaper/TV/radio advertisements. The PAC Executive Committee must unanimously approve any independent expenditure or express advocacy and any language must be approved by the PAC Executive Committee.

PRIMARY GIVING

1. The candidate running in the primary election must be a physician or have a platform or campaign that seeks to advance our profession.
2. The Orthopaedic PAC should consider the filing deadline and as a rule should not give earlier than six months before the primary election date in that state.
3. The request must come from an orthopaedic surgeon/PAC contributor or a member of the AAOS Washington Office staff.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The PAC will encourage:

Orthopaedic surgeons who are members of the PAC are encouraged to attend local political events, so that not all checks are presented in Washington, DC. PAC members who host in-district events can request up to \$5,000 for Members of Congress on before mentioned key committees. Up to \$2,500 can be requested for members of Congress on non-key committees.

The leadership of the AAOS, including BOD, BOC, BOS, Council on Advocacy, Council and Committee Chairs, and Regional Representatives should attend events in their own States and Congressional Districts (to facilitate open communications with elected officials).

Participation in both the Republican and Democratic convention activity. (The PAC does not endorse or contribute to Presidential candidates.)

Communication with the State Orthopaedic Society leadership as appropriate.

OGR staff will always solicit PAC Executive Committee approval on any race that is contested, where a candidate is seeking an open seat, or where a candidate is challenging an incumbent.