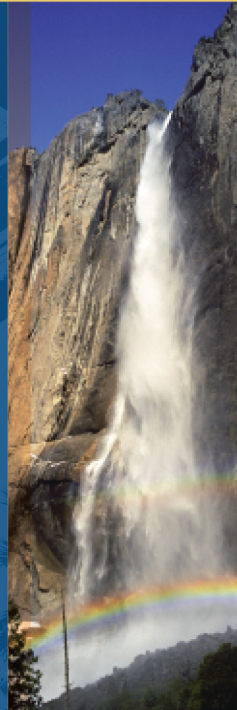


# KP

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS



# Hearing Healthcare Providers: Issues Facing the Licensee

Vanessa Cajina, Legislative Advocate

## Roadmap for today

- Background on bodies that influence the profession
- Legislation and regulation impacting licensees
- Recent legislation of interest to HHP members
- Current actions in front of our regulatory board



# WHO ARE THE DECISION MAKERS?



State legislation & budget

Regulatory authority & oversight



Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board

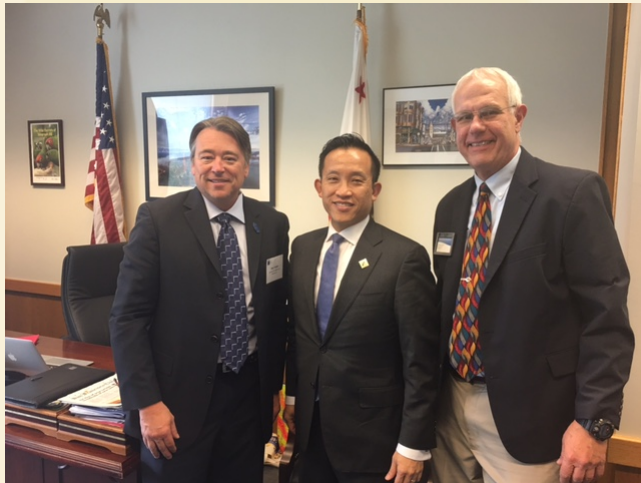
Federal coverage issues





## And you, the licensees!

HHP members provide testimony, letters, phone calls, and other manners of engagement to tell our Legislators and regulatory board how their policy affects our business.



*IHS Pacific Regional Governor Don Tucker and HHP Secretary/Treasurer Cliff Johnson with Assmblyman David Chiu*



*Judd Palmer, HHP member, and Bryce Docherty with Senator Cathleen Galgiani at HHP's 2017 Legislative Advocacy Day*

# KP Public Affairs

- KP lobbyists Bryce Docherty and Vanessa Cajina have proudly represented HHP since 2013 with in-depth experience in the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Department of Health Care Services, and pertinent committees
- KP is the largest lobbying firm in Sacramento, with 11 registered lobbyists and a full public relations firm
- KP represents clients in almost every area of public policy



## Historical events impacting licensees

- Speech-language pathology and audiology overseen separately by the Medical Board of California from 1974 to 2010
- In 2009, Assembly Bill 1535 was signed into law. AB 1535 did the following:
  - Merged the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau with 2 other boards to create the Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers Board under the Department of Consumer Affairs
  - Eliminated requirement for audiologists to hold a separate hearing aid dispensing license; replaced it with a Certificate of Authorization to Dispense
  - Changes Board governance structure to have 2 SLPs, 2 audiologists (1 with dispensing certification), 2 hearing aid dispensers, 2 public members, and 1 public member who is an MD ENT

## 2017-18 HHP Legislation

- SB 198 (Galgiani) – Sponsor/Support
  - HHP seeks a pathway to allow licensed hearing aid dispensers to perform cerumen management and tympanometry
  - After discussions with Senate Business and Professions, we held the bill
  - HHP continues to have conversations with policy staff, the SLPAHAD Board, IHS, and the California Medical Association to find the right balance on education and training standards

# 2018 HHP Legislation

- AB 612 (Rubio) – Support
  - Would require the Department of Health Care Services to streamline reporting on the Newborn Infant Hearing Screening Program
  - Status: 2-year bill
- AB 2138 (Chiu) – Support
  - Would allow the Department of Consumer Affairs to grant professional licenses to some people convicted of certain crimes
  - Status: Assembly Appropriations Committee
- AB 2945 (Gallagher) – Support
  - Would provide a tax credit for employers who hire workers who are deaf or hard of hearing
  - Status: Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee



# SLPAHAD Board Sunset Review

- Each board and bureau that oversees licensees in the Department of Consumer Affairs is reviewed periodically by the Legislature to ensure efficacy, solvency, responsibility, and relevance
- SLPAHAD under review last year
- Some issues identified by the Legislature include exam pass rates and locked devices
- The Legislature passed a simple extension of the Board's existence to January 1, 2022

# Current issues in front of the SLPAHAD BOARD

- AB 1950 (Maienschein, 2016)
  - Would have required every hearing aid sold to provide an explanation of telecoils
  - Instead the SLPAHAD Board is developing a consumer fact sheet on telecoils
- Trainee supervision regulations: Ongoing discussions on how to provide better oversight for hearing aid dispenser trainees

## HHP Political Action Committee

- HHP provides campaign contributions to friends of the practice, legislators who support our profession and development
- Current budget is approximately \$20,000, a good start for our size, but we can do better!
- Contribute to HHP PAC today!

## Questions? Comments?

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