



TRUTH

About some common PAC concerns

1. **“I don’t get involved in politics.”** **Sorry, you’re already involved!** Elected legislators make policy every day that directly impacts our profession, our livelihoods and our ability to care for our patients. The only question is whether or not the ACR and ARHP have a seat at the table for these discussions.

2. **“Investing in RheumPAC does not make a difference.”** **Untrue!** Here are some of the legislative highlights brought to our profession by RheumPAC:
 - a. MACRA Flexibility: successfully lobbied CMS to agree to add options to avoid penalties.
 - b. Flex IT: H.R. 5001 and S. 2822 allow providers in the Medicare EHR Incentive Program to report to a 90-day reporting period in 2017 rather than a full calendar year.
 - c. Successfully defeated CMS’s Part B Demonstration project which would have reduced reimbursement to providers for expensive infusion treatments.
 - d. On the state level we passed six biosimilars bills, four step therapy laws, stopped a coverage change proposed by a payer in North Carolina for steroid injections and got a downcoding decision reversed in the Palmetto MAC region.
 - e. By the numbers we:
 - i. Sent 7,800+ emails to members of congress.
 - ii. Held meetings in 250+ congressional offices.
 - iii. Attended events for over 50 RheumPAC supported candidates.
 - iv. Published 42 letters to the editor on important policy matters (including the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Hill*).
 - v. Monitored 635 bills with a direct effect on rheumatology.

3. **“PACs only exist to help one party or another.”** **Untrue!** RheumPAC is truly bipartisan, our only political affiliation is to further the ACR’s and ARHP’s policies. Don’t believe me? Check out [list of supported candidates](#) in the 2016 election cycle.

There is no excuse not to get involved!
Rheumatology is directly impacted by politics.
Doctors are not exempt from civic participation!