Value Added Statements:

Government Relations

1. ACRA has the largest and most visible Political Action Committees of all radiology organizations.

2. RADPAC® is considered one of the most effective and successful PACs in the health-care industry.

3. RADPAC® helps convey radiologists’ interests to elected officials and increases our ability to educate Congress on the wide array of issues of importance to the College membership and their patients.

4. The ACR has the most comprehensive federal and state governmental relations organization that advocates on behalf of radiologists, radiation oncologists, and patients.

5. RADPAC® participates in more than 450 congressional fundraising events in Washington, D.C., and hosts more than 20 fundraising events for Members of Congress throughout the country each year.

6. RADPAC® is routinely ranked among the top five PACs in both contributions raised and contributions made to members of Congress out of the more than 140 health professional PACs registered in Washington, D.C.

7. RADPAC® and the College’s grassroots efforts help to arrange roughly 30 radiology facility visits each year with members of Congress and local radiologists. More than 150 of these visits have been organized in the past five years.

8. As we transition away from fee for service, the ACR is committed to ensuring that radiology is an active participant in any discussions pertaining to the implementation of a new physician payment system. Imaging 3.0 will give our radiologists the tools to ensure that their services are valued in new payment systems.
9. ACR vigorously defends radiology from reimbursement cuts from both the regulatory and legislative arenas.

10. ACR serves as your “eyes and ears on the ground” in Washington, so when federal agencies propose policies that could interfere with patient care, Radiology’s concerns are heard.

11. ACR provides leadership on federal health IT policy topics, including Meaningful Use, clinical decision support, and health information exchange topics. Extensive efforts over the last three years helped to achieve newly customizable federal requirements for “certified EHR technology” used by participants in the Medicare/Medicaid EHR Incentive Program.

12. ACR, together with Radiology Business Management Association, successfully advocated for temporary relief from the future Medicare penalties for physicians who can’t achieve Meaningful Use because of technology availability issues outside of their control.

13. ACR nominates dozens of ACR members annually to serve on federal agency advisory committees to ensure that the “House of Radiology” is represented when federal policies that affect members' practices are discussed.

14. In 2012, ACR government relations staff monitored over 150 federal agency and federal advisory committee meetings, and identified over 400 radiology-relevant federal regulatory issues, agency activities, and rulemakings.

15. ACR helps shape the development and implementation of federal regulations that influence members' practices by testifying before federal agencies, reviewing and providing written comments on proposed rules, and acting as a resource to federal agency personnel.

16. ACR stays abreast of federal policy changes and educates its members on how to comply with relevant federal laws, regulations, and policies.

17. ACR provides counsel and resources to state chapters to assist them in promoting their legislative and regulatory agendas at the state and local levels.

18. ACR staff identify, research, and organize relevant state legislation and assist state chapters by tracking state legislative activity on radiology-specific issues and other practice of medicine issues. By monitoring state legislative activity in all 50 states, the staff reviews and analyzes an estimated 400 state bills annually.

19. On average, ACR’s state government relations team researches and responds to over 150 legislative and legal inquiries per year from our members, state legislators, state regulators, practice managers, patients and others on state specific radiology and related health care issues.

20. ACR develops and maintains relationships with a variety of state government organizations and state-based advocacy groups to identify opportunities for cooperation, gather information on their relevant activities and inform them of ACR policy positions.