



2025 Advocacy Priorities

Introduction

ATRA's advocacy activities focus on federal health, education, community, and social service policies, programs, and legislation that directly impact the profession of recreational therapy and individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions served by recreational therapists.

Approach

ATRA responds to issues in a non-partisan manner to advocate and protect the recreational therapy profession and people served by recreational therapists.

Service Issues

Anti-discrimination policies specific to disability and the inclusion of disability
Disability rights issues, such as accessibility and equitable practices
Policy and program changes that affect people with disabilities, specifically in the
 Departments of Education, Veterans Affairs, and Health and Human Services
Social prescribing movement
Loneliness and well-being initiatives

Coverage Issues

Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRF) and the Level of Intensity of Services rule
Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)
Inpatient Psychiatric Facilities (IPF)
Hospice
Medicare
Medicaid – federal changes, funding to states, waiver programs
Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

Professional Issues

State licensure
University programs
Grant funding and federal government support of health/disability research
Discipline-specific abbreviation and coding