



ATRA in Action – August 2025

Advocacy and Legislative Update

Introduction

ATRA's advocacy activities are focused on bills, actions, or issues that directly impact the profession of recreational therapy or people with disabilities. ATRA responds to issues in a non-partisan manner to advocate and protect the recreational therapy profession and people served by recreational therapists.

July and August were quiet months in legislative activities. Congress returns September 2, 2025.

Advocacy Activities

- Updated [ATRA's Advocacy and Legislative Priorities](#)
- Developed advocacy/legislative assignments for universities
- Letter sent to Director Cruz of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research at the National Institutes of Health regarding NIH research plan on rehabilitation themes
- Letter supporting recreational therapy services in Indiana to the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration regarding 460 IAC 6-3-43

Meetings

- Many monthly meetings were cancelled this month due to vacations and the Congressional break.

What We Are Watching:

- Senate rejections of proposed changes related to the Department of Education, Administration on Community Living, and National Institutes of Health. The Senate rejected proposed changes to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the defunding of disability programs at the beginning of August.

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ATRA Board of Directors: Tameka Battle, President; Nancy Nisbett, President-Elect; Jennifer Hinton, Immediate Past-President; Amina Abdallah, Treasurer; Deborah Tysor, Secretary; Members at Large: Ashley Bowen, Jasmine Edwards, Kevin Enright, Lilli Higgins, Chelsea Farrington, LeAnn Wheeler



- Impact of Medicaid cuts on states and caregivers, as well as home community-based services (such as Medicaid waiver programs). Some information has been posted on ATRA Connect.

Sign-On Letters During August

- Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities, U.S. Department of Education (ED) [*Proposed Priority: Advancing Artificial Intelligence in Education*](#) supports exploring AI in education, but wants to ensure students with disabilities are considered and included
- Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation [Concerns Regarding the WISeR Model and Access to Medically Necessary Rehabilitation Care](#)

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