



ATRA in Action – September 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.

In September, there has been limited Congressional activity. The House of Representatives has not returned to DC but is expected back in early October. Various agencies have been active with other actions and initiatives.

ACTION ALERTS – Please take action!

- None this month

Advocacy Activities

- Connecting and updating ATRA info with the Senate Special Committee on Aging
- Developing advocacy and legislative content for future use
- Posting a variety of resources on [ATRA Connect](#) for ATRA members focused on Administration on Community Living, falls prevention, social connections for caregivers, budget appropriations, grants, and suicide prevention

Meetings

- Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Task Force Meeting on September 4, 2025 – discussion focused on anticipated announcement later in the month from the Department of Health and Human Services related to autism
- CCD Monthly Meeting with Committee Updates – September 19, 2025

What We Are Watching:

- Federal budget and potential government shutdown

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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



- Potential for layoffs and/or terminations based on the shutdown, which impact Health and Human Services, veteran services, disability services, and Medicare and Medicaid funding
- Congressional committees and appropriations specific to Medicare and Medicaid
- Department of Health and Human Services announcement regarding the causes and treatments for individuals with autism
- Impact of National Institutes of Health [grant cuts](#)

Sign On Letters During September

- [CCD sign-on letter on application of Federal Labor Standards Act](#) to home care workers. This letter was about the Labor Department's plan to remove pay, overtime, and protections for disability caregivers.
- [Coalition on Preservation of Rehabilitation \(CPR\) sign-on letter](#) on Fiscal Year 2026 Medicare Proposed Rule for Physician Fee Schedule
- CCD sign-on letter regarding the appeal of HR 1 Medicare and Medicaid reductions encouraged House and Senate leaders to pass the Protecting Healthcare and Lowering Costs Act of 2025.
- [CCD sign-on letter to the Department of Education](#) on the importance of ESEA assessment and accountability provisions for students with disabilities.

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