



## ATRA in Action – December 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.

Happy New Year! Here's a recap of ATRA's advocacy efforts in December 2025.

#### ACTION ALERTS – Please take action!

- Offer input into the following issues on ATRA Connect Advocacy & Legislation
  - Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare
  - Repeal of minimum staffing requirements in Skilled Nursing Facilities

#### Advocacy Activities

- Postings on [ATRA Connect](#) – Advocacy & Legislative page on multiple topics including the Department of Education, Older Adults, Administration on Community Living, and Medicaid work requirements

#### Meetings

- Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) and HAB Coalition meeting with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' [Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight](#) (CCIIO) on therapy caps
- Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Supports subcommittee to discuss impact of separating Office of Special Education from the Department of Education
- Social Prescribing for Health Providers

#### What We Are Watching:

- Healthcare affordability, including ACA tax credits and marketplace changes with specific attention on the impact on people with disabilities
- Medicaid changes at state level

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- Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare – see [ATRA Connect post](#) for the chance to share your thoughts
- Social Prescribing

#### **Sign On Letters During December**

- Sign-on letter to Senator Cassidy about Secretary Kennedy and the need for evidence-based practice to be used in decision-making
- Sign-on letter to the Department of Education Secretary regarding professional categories
- Sign-on letter for the Passage of the Senate FY 2026 appropriations bill
- [Sign-on letter related to the Department of Veterans Affairs](#) determination not to utilize CARF standards

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