



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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