



January 2026 Advocacy & 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.

Action Alerts - Please Take Action!

1. Offer input into the following issue on ATRA Connect Advocacy & Legislation: Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare – Comments are due 2/23 and we'd love to have some input on how AI is impacting your practice!
2. Watch ATRA Connect and your email for a coming action alert about Section 504 of the Rehab Act and a lawsuit coming from several states challenging its constitutionality.

Advocacy Activities

- | ATRA's [2026 Advocacy and Legislative Priorities](#)
- | Postings on [ATRA Connect](#) – Advocacy & Legislative page on multiple topics including the Department of Education; Special Interest Group postings on ACL and social engagement
- | Preparing comments on request for comments on “Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel: Reporting Requirements for Disability-Related Complaints”
- | Formation of the CPT Code A&L group
- | Kick off ATRA's Social Prescribing Task Force chaired by Dr. Betsy Kemeny

Meetings

- | Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities Annual Meeting

What We Are Watching

- | Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in Air Travel: Reporting Requirements for Disability-Related Complaints
- | Section 504 Rehabilitation Act lawsuit
- | Healthcare affordability, including ACA tax credits and marketplace changes with specific attention on the impact to people with disabilities
- | Medicaid changes at state level
- | Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare – see [ATRA Connect post](#) for the chance to share your thoughts
- | Social Prescribing



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Sign On Letters During January

- | Sign on Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) letter not supporting the WiSER model for older adults and Medicare claims
- | Sign on Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) letter requesting clarification on Home and Community-Based waivers in HR 1
- | Sign on Independence Through Enhancement of Medicare and Medicaid Coalition (ITEM) letter - H.R. 6835, the Veterans Spinal Trauma Access to New Devices (“STAND”) Act of 2025
- | Sign on letter by ITEM on S. 3138, the Veterans Supporting Prosthetics Opportunities and Recreational Therapy (“SPORT”) Act

Thank You

Thank you and special shout out to **Lizzie Terry** (CCD) and **Laura Holmes** (ITEM) for representing ATRA at coalition meetings.

Stay Connected

- | Follow ATRA on Social Media (Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn) @ATRAinAction
- | Join the conversation and stay current on timely advocacy and legislative issues on our [ATRA Connect Advocacy & Legislative](#) page
- | Visit the [Advocacy page on ATRA's website](#) for official ATRA communications and advocacy resources

ATRA Advocates for You

ATRA is the only national organization representing the specific needs and interests of all recreational therapists. ATRA envisions a world where all people have access to recreational therapy. To make that vision a reality, it is essential for recreational therapists to be recognized and valued in federal, state, and local governments. ATRA is devoted to promoting and supporting the recreational therapy profession through our strategic advocacy efforts, which ensure that lawmakers and other influential organizations are aware of recreational therapy's vital services.

You are ATRA and this is ATRA in Action.



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