



FEDERAL AFFAIRS LIAISON UPDATE

American Physical Therapy Association

Federal Advocacy Forum

As Federal Affairs Liaison for the Academy of Pediatric PT, I attended the 2017 Federal Advocacy Forum. I had the opportunity to network with several hundred physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and students of physical therapy. Collectively, we visited Capitol Hill offices of our U.S. Representatives and Senators to lobby for cosponsors of legislation to end the [Medicare therapy cap \(H.R. 807/S. 253\)](#) and to add physical therapists to the [National Health Service Corps](#) loan repayment program (H.R. 1639/S. 619). We also discussed a bill – reintroduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, but not in the Senate – that would make it easier for PTs and other providers to practice when traveling with sports teams. We spoke about the PT’s role in concussion management, the opioid epidemic, and the importance of ensuring that children and their families have access to and coverage for essential health benefits, including PT.

Please review information about the [2017 Federal Advocacy Forum](#) and share [APTA’s 2017-2018 public policy priorities](#).

ESSA and IDEA Update

Social media outlets have been stirring with information about HR 610. APTA continues to monitor activity; however, little activity has occurred since being introduced by Rep. Steve King. The bill calls for the elimination of ESEA and provides block grants to eligible states. APTA is monitoring the progress of the bill, but does not believe it will garner the support necessary to move forward. Congress has not introduced any legislation specific to IDEA, as the focus in both the House and the Senate continues to be on health care, confirmations, and immigration. APTA expects more movement on these issues in the second quarter.

The following links are excellent resources for those interested in gathering more information about bill details or tracking bills, votes, etc.:

www.govtrack.us

www.congress.gov

Key Contacts

If you are interested in becoming a key contact for federal affairs related to pediatrics in your state, please contact me at mjones1@okcu.edu.