



## FEDERAL AFFAIRS LIAISON UPDATE

American Physical Therapy Association

### *Congressional Update*

**Affordable Care Act (Repeal and Replace):** APTA is closely tracking and monitoring the revived repeal and replace efforts of the ACA in the House of Representatives. Most recently, APTA joined a group of 46 national clinician, consumer, and membership organizations known as the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation (CPR) in a joint letter to Congress expressing opposition to any health care reform effort that would eliminate rehabilitation as an essential health benefit (EHB). The compromise, referred to as the MacArthur amendment, allows states to waive out of some of the provisions. The freedom caucus has officially endorsed the bill, but most of the moderate GOP are very concerned by access and premium implications with these waivers. APTA will continue to advocate on behalf of PTs and will likely do a grassroots push from members if some of the current provisions are not removed before moving forward for a vote.

**Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):** APTA is looking for ways to advance legislative initiatives (Therapy Cap Repeal in the House and the Senate; Workforce bill in the House, and Sport medicine bill in the Senate). APTA will attempt to include therapy cap repeal legislation within the reauthorization of CHIP, which needs to be reauthorized prior to September 30 and will attempt to work through the National Health Service Corps reauthorization process to include PTs within the student loan repayment program. .

### *ESSA and IDEA Update*

Congress has made no movement on these issues. Intermittent information continues through some social media outlets about HR 610. APTA is monitoring activity of the bill that calls for the elimination of ESEA and provides block grants to eligible states. APTA does not believe it will garner the support necessary to move forward, but continues to track. 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. 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](http://www.govtrack.us)

[www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)

### *Regulatory Update*

**Proposed Rules:** APTA is awaiting several proposed payment rules from CMS, including home health, skilled nursing facilities, inpatient rehab facilities, and physician fee schedule. CMS recently released the inpatient hospital/long term care hospital (LTCH) rule and plans to submit comments. In general, the proposed regulation propose increasing payments to hospitals and decreasing payments to LTCHs.

**Home Health Conditions of Participation (CoPs) delay and pre-claim review delay:** CMS is delaying the plan to try out a pre-claim review system for home health agencies (HHAs) in 5 states.

CMS also delayed implementation of revised CoPs that would update the minimum standards for HHAs that service Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. Implementation delayed until January 13, 2018.

**Tricare:** APTA continues to work on getting PTAs as authorized providers under Tricare. Efforts of working with the Department of Defense have not resulted in change, so APTA is now working with Congress to find a way to resolve the issue via legislation that would add PTAs as authorized providers of physical therapy under Tricare.

### ***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](mailto:mjones1@okcu.edu).