

American Physical Therapy Association Announces Public Policy Priorities for 118th Congress



Continued Commitment to Improving Patient Access and Care Remains of the Highest Importance to APTA Members and the Patients They Serve

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Alexandria, VA — The American Physical Therapy Association delivers biannual public policy priorities to federal legislators and policymakers, reinforcing the essential role physical therapy plays in the U.S. health care system. As detailed in the [APTA Public Policy Priorities 2023-24](#), APTA advocacy work will focus on four key policy areas:

- Patient access to care.
- Population health and social determinants of health.
- Value-based care and practice.
- Research and clinical innovation.

“Updating our policy priorities is key to establishing a framework for where we should spend our resources — both human and financial,” said APTA Vice President Susan Appling, PT, DPT, PhD, who chairs the APTA Public Policy and Advocacy Committee. “In addition to serving as a starting place for deeper conversations on needed reforms with lawmakers, insurance payers, and federal agencies, our public policy priorities enable us to leverage the power of the physical therapy profession to provide solutions to health care issues that impact all Americans.”

Published in odd-numbered years to coincide with the start of a new session of Congress, APTA’s public policy priorities list several objectives. Among them for 2023-24: reform of the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule, reducing administrative burden, more investment in prevention and wellness, models that support PTs as an entry point to care, and increasing funding for research that includes physical therapist services, with more involvement of PTs in the development of outcome, process, and quality measures. The 2023-24 priorities reflect progress made so far and feature strategies that address shifts in the environment.

“I encourage all of our members to join us in taking an active role in shaping the policy choices facing our profession today,” said APTA President Roger Herr, PT, MPA. “Advocacy wins rarely happen overnight; sometimes work on an issue takes months or even years. That’s why developing resources such as our public policy priorities is vital to the mission of the American Physical Therapy Association.”

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The American Physical Therapy Association represents more than 100,000 physical therapists, physical therapist assistants, and physical therapy students nationwide. Visit apta.org to learn more.