

APTA Information Bulletin

Amidst unprecedented challenges and cuts to Medicaid, IDEA, education and disability services, APTA and APTA Pediatrics continue to advocate on issues impacting the pediatric population. Most recently, APTA and APTA Pediatrics advocated in response to the reductions in staff at the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Office for Civil Rights, and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education.

As these challenges persist, APTA and APTA Pediatrics will continue to work and advocate together to preserve access to essential physical therapist services. The following information provides a recap of APTA advocacy undertaken so far this year.

February 2025

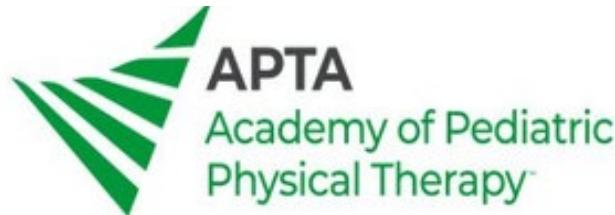
- **APTA Signs on to Medicaid in Schools Coalition Letter:** On February 17, 2025, APTA was one of 65 national organizations of the Medicaid in Schools Coalition [in a letter](#) to the U.S. Congress expressing deep opposition to any major restructuring of the Medicaid program proposed in a budget reconciliation package. Specifically, proposals to cap Medicaid spending or lower the federal Medicaid match rates would jeopardize \$7.5 billion in funding for school-based Medicaid services.

March 2025

- **APTA Signs on to Letter Urging IDEA to be Maintained within the Department of Education:** On March 24, 2025, APTA and APTA Pediatrics alongside other members of the IDEA Implementation Coalition, [sent a letter](#) to the ranking members of the U.S. House Education and Workforce Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee urging them to oppose any efforts to move the administration of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act outside of the U.S. Department of Education.

April 2025

- **APTA Signs On to Letter Urging Against Any Action to Dismantle Department of Education:** APTA, alongside other members of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD), wrote a letter to the chairs and ranking members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees imploring them to take no action—through appropriations or authorizing statutes—to weaken or dismantle the U.S.



Department of Education. The coalition believes that annual appropriations bills should not be used to alter requirements established through bipartisan education, civil rights, and disability authorizing statutes.

- **IDEA Full Funding Legislation Introduced:** In April the APTA-endorsed [IDEA Full Funding Act](#) (H.R. 2598 / S. 1277) was reintroduced in the U.S. Congress. This bill provides permanent, mandatory funding for the grant program that assists states and outlying areas in providing special education and related services to children with disabilities.

June 2025

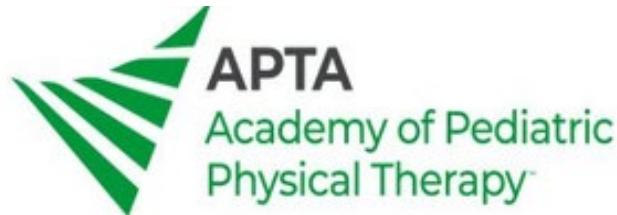
- **APTA Signs on to Comments Opposing Medicaid Cuts in Budget Reconciliation:** On June 24, 2025, APTA, along with other members of the Coalition to Preserve Rehabilitation and Habilitation Benefits Coalition [sent a letter](#) to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, the chair and ranking member of the U.S. Finance Committee to express deep concerns regarding the sweeping Medicaid cuts proposed in the Senate's federal fiscal year 2026 budget reconciliation package. Members of the coalitions urged the Senators to reject these harmful cuts to Medicaid and preserve access to rehabilitation and habilitation services across the continuum of care.

July 2025

- **APTA's New Campaign on Medicaid:** In July APTA rolled out its new advertising campaign aimed at state legislators aimed at improving funding, payment, and reduced administrative burden for physical therapist services under Medicaid. The full-page advertisement ran in the August edition of *State Legislatures* magazine, a publication of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). View the APTA advertisement [HERE](#).

September 2025

- **APTA and APTA Pediatrics Sign on to Letter Urging the Department of Education to Maintain IDEA Part D Funding:** On September 22, 2025, APTA and APTA



Pediatrics joined in a [letter](#) drafted led by the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA) and the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) urging the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education to maintain all current grants under Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

October 2025

- **APTA and APTA Pediatrics Sign on to a Joint Statement Opposing RIFs to the Office of Special Education Programs, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Office for Civil Rights, and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education:** On October 22, 2025, APTA and APTA Pediatrics joined with over 400 provider and patient groups in a Joint Statement expressing opposition to the U.S. Department of Education's recent Reduction in Force (RIF). The RIF so far has resulted in the elimination of more than half of the positions at the Department of Education, including nearly all the positions in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, which includes the Office of Special Education Programs and the Rehabilitation Services Administration. These actions have conflict with specific requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Rehabilitation Act. Read the Joint Statement [HERE](#).
- **APTA and APTA Pediatrics Sign on to a Letter Requesting Senate Committee Oversight Hearing on RIFs to the Office of Special Education Programs, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, the Office for Civil Rights, and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education:** October 23, 2025, APTA and APTA Pediatrics joined with over 60 patient and provider organizations in a letter to the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP) with a request that the committee conduct an oversight hearing on the Reduction in Force (RIF) actions to the Department of Education. Read the letter to the U.S. Senate HELP Committee [HERE](#).

Take Action and contact your members of Congress asking them to conduct oversight hearing on the RIFs to the Department of Education [HERE](#).

As always thank you for dedication, advocacy, and ongoing support. Be sure to stay tuned for updates and future advocacy opportunities. Thank you for being a member of APTA!