



May FAL Call Minutes

May 28, 2025, 8:00 PM ET

The Zoom recording can be accessed here: https://apta-org.zoom.us/rec/share/Vq7b1mj50tgheUbkxg4A8anUZfDWgSkNs_vxHh09j63Esqr8NAmMTs4opO-AHMYI.-o5yTp3onIT_UdPe

Regulatory Update

Regulatory Reform Recommendations: In response to the Administration's deregulatory initiatives, APTA submitted a regulatory reform recommendation letter to CMS Administrator Oz on May 14. [A news article was published on May 20](#) summarizing APTA's leadership in regulatory reform advocacy. APTA's recommendations are:

- Eliminate the 8-minute rule for outpatient therapy and replace with the CPT midpoint rule
- Reduce the negative impact of the multiple procedure payment reduction and apply MPPR only within the same therapy discipline (e.g., PT to PT), create exceptions for underserved areas, use CMS's own data to reassess and narrow the list of therapy codes affected., and acknowledge CMS's past recognition of duplicative valuation issues in MPPR.
 - [New policy paper is now available on APTA's website.](#)
- Streamline the credentialing requirement for new physical therapists

Supplemental Materials and Upcoming Response: APTA plans to respond to the CMS Request for Information on Deregulation, due June 10. A policy paper and a position paper were developed to support and expand upon the recommendations.

Next Regulatory, Legislative, and Payment Updates Series Webinar: [June 11 at 2:30 p.m. ET](#). Free to APTA members and eligible for CEU credit; a recording will be available. This will cover rulemaking, private payer policies, and their impacts on various PT settings.

Grassroots Update

Delegate Attendance Status and Continue Chief Delegate Outreach: The goal is to increase delegate participation in Capitol Hill Day. Leadership Congress is in DC to encourage delegates to advocate for the profession on Capitol Hill. There are currently 567 listed delegates (including alternates) and 195 have registered. Realistic total number of participating delegates is expected to be around 500. Currently, more non-delegates are registered for Capitol Hill Day than delegates. FALs should continue contacting your component's Chief Delegate to encourage delegate attendance and emphasize the importance of staying one extra day to participate in advocacy efforts.

APTA Capitol Hill Day Registration and Housing: Both close **June 18**. The housing block at the Omni is currently full for Monday, but more rooms are being added; please contact aptahousing@spargoinc.com to get on the waiting list if you need to book your hotel.

Capitol Hill Day Preparation: A pre-event webinar scheduled for **Tuesday, June 24 at 8:00 p.m. ET** and it will be recorded. It will cover logistics and talking points for Capitol Hill visits. The June FAL Call will focus on your role and duties as state lead during the event. Live attendance is highly encouraged for Q&A opportunities.

Scheduling of Meetings with Congress: The first round of scheduling data will be sent to the scheduler on June 2. FALs can expect your initial state meeting schedules to be released in mid-to-late June. No special IDs are needed to access House/Senate office buildings.

Fan of fans? If you need a fan to prepare for the July heat and humidity, I personally can recommend [this one](#) and [this one](#).

August Recess Planning: An updated August Recess Guide is nearing release and can be used as a resource for year-round recesses. Given the timing of APTA Capitol Hill Day, advocates should plan to use the August Recess for follow-ups and focus on districts without an APTA Capitol Hill Day meeting.

Advocacy Training Program Cohorts: Sign up for a 7-module training program from the Congressional Management Foundation that offers an engaging way to learn about the legislative process, with videos, quizzes, and activities for advocates of all levels. This is highly recommended for everyone attending APTA Capitol Hill Day. The program is not mandatory, but highly recommended as a supplemental tool and is limited to 125 participants at a time. The only criteria to participate is to be an APTA member and it will be opened up to a wider group after APTA Capitol Hill Day.

- [Cohort 4: June 5-June 12](#) – submit interest by June 3
- [Cohort 5: June 16-June 23](#) – submit interest by June 12
- [Cohort 6: June 26-July 3](#) – submit interest by June 24

Congressional Update

Budget Reconciliation Overview: Congress, specifically the U.S. House, has passed its budget reconciliation bill (Official bill name is “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” or H.R. 1) by a narrow margin. All Democrats opposed; a few Republicans voted “present” or “no.” The purpose is to extend 2017 tax cuts before their expiration at year-end; failure to do so would raise taxes on Jan 1. The reconciliation process allows passage with 51 votes in the Senate, bypassing filibuster.

Key Bill Provisions Impacting APTA Members and Patients

- **Medicaid:** Avoided cuts to FMAP (federal Medicaid funding to states), which is good news—especially for therapy services (PT, OT, SLP). New nationwide work/community engagement requirements for Medicaid recipients. Increased administrative requirements for verifying provider and patient eligibility.
- **Medicare Fee Schedule:** \$9 billion investment into the fee schedule, introduces permanent annual MEI (Medicare Economic Index) update. The goal is to eventually reach 100% MEI updates annually for fee schedule stability and growth.
- **Student Loans:** Subsidized federal student loan interest payments will be phased out in 2026. Grad PLUS loans will be eliminated for new borrowers starting in 2026. Concerns raised for students relying on these loan types for education funding.
- **New Tax Deduction:** “No Tax on Overtime” deduction introduced that would apply to hourly, non-exempt employees (e.g., PTAs, hourly PTs) and allow deduction of overtime wages for income tax purposes.
- **Senate Outlook:** Senate is unlikely to pass the bill in its current form. Bipartisan concerns: Medicaid cuts, student loan changes. Senate could amend and return the bill to the House. Passage is uncertain; margins are thin. Timeline unclear: Negotiations could continue through June or into late July before summer recess.

- **Budget Reconciliation Implications for Hill Day:** This would depend on reconciliation status at that time. Be prepared for flexible messaging in the coming weeks.
 - If passed: Focus on increasing MEI adjustment and further Medicare reforms.
 - If not passed: Emphasize opposing harmful provisions (e.g., Medicaid work requirements).
 - Focus on other advocacy priorities like the SAFE Act (Falls Prevention Bill), Medicare payment reform: repeal MPPR, budget neutrality adjustments, etc.
- **Potential Deficit and Sequestration:** Concerns raised about deficit increase. Possible automatic sequestration if deficit spikes—impacting multiple agencies. Congress may need to address debt ceiling and sequestration as a follow-up.

Other Legislative Updates: The Optimizing Postpartum Outcomes Act (pelvic health bill) may be introduced this week with lead sponsors Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE), Rep. Lori Trahan (D-MA). Additionally, we are awaiting Medicare Opt-Out bill reintroduction in the House.

PTPAC Update

PTPAC Party at APTA Capitol Hill Day: The event will take place at Swingers Dupont Circle. The event will be on Monday, July 14, from 8-10 p.m. You can buy tickets (\$100 each) when registering for Leadership Congress, which includes golf, drinks, and food. All PTPAC Eagle club members receive one free ticket, but please contact Michael Matlack to reserve your ticket.

The next FAL call will be Wednesday, June 25 at 8:00 p.m. ET