



FAL Briefing Memo

December 2023

Federal Agencies

- **DEPT OF EDUCATION:** On Nov 13, 2023, APTA along with other members of the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel met with the [new Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, Glenna Gallo](#), to discuss how the Department of Education and the coalition can collaborate to achieve our shared goals.
- **LIMB LOSS:** On Nov 14, 2023, APTA and other members of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition wrote a letter of support to the Limb Loss & Preservation Registry Leadership Team on a [limb loss & preservation clinical registry](#). APTA signed on to the letter because we believe that registries help advance the quality and effectiveness of care and inform policies that recognize the limb loss, limb difference, and limb preservation populations.
- **NIH:** On Nov 24, 2-23, APTA along with other members of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition responded to the [National Institute for Health's request for information](#) on their proposal to remove "reduce illness and disability" from their mission statement. The [letter](#) supported this change but advocating for continued representation of the disability community by including the phrase "optimize health and function." By including function in the mission statement, NIH creates a people-focused mission that includes individuals with disabilities.

U.S. Congress

- **FEE SCHEDULE:** On Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, the House Energy & Commerce Committee passed an amended version of H.R. 6545, the *Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act* sponsored by Reps. Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and Schrier (D-WA). As amended in committee, the legislation that would provide a 1.25% boost to the 2024 Medicare conversion factor (CF) under the physician fee schedule -- the same level that passed the Senate Finance Committee in November. Prior to being amended, as introduced the level of support was 1.75% but was amended to reflect that Senate proposal. The level of support was viewed by many on the committee as not enough and that additional support was needed. The bill also includes important reform elements that would improve budget neutrality by raising the budget neutrality threshold; in addition the bill also would regular updated costs used to calculate practice expense relative value units every five years. Following the committee's action, on Thursday, December 7, 2023, a secondary bill that would provide funding for the full 3.37% boost to the 2024 CF was introduced in the House; the "Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act" was introduced by Representatives

Gregory Murphy, M.D. (R-NC), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Brad Wenstrup (R-OH), and Danny Davis (D-IL).

- TELEHEALTH: On November 27, 2024, APTA submitted comments to the Senate Finance Committee urging that the Expanded Telehealth Access Act (H.R.3875/S.2880) be passed and signed into law. This legislation would make PTs and PTAs permanent authorized providers of telehealth to Medicare beneficiaries. APTA's comments were in response to the Committee's recent hearing to consider making permanent many of Medicare's pandemic-era telehealth flexibilities – including reimbursement for PT and PTA services. It is critical that Congress act on this issue by this time next year since Medicare's current telehealth reimbursement policies are scheduled to expire on December 31, 2024.

APTA Articles of Interest

- <https://www.apta.org/news/2023/12/04/caregiver-training-codes-practice-advisory>
- <https://www.apta.org/apta-magazine/2023/12/01/economic-value-physical-therapy-united-states>
- <https://www.apta.org/article/2023/11/29/fee-schedule-scenarios>
- <https://www.apta.org/news/2023/11/29/uhc-start-and-stop>
- <https://www.apta.org/article/2023/11/07/final-2024-home-health-rule>