

Leg Committee FAL Update Dec 16th, 2025

Congressional Update:

- 2026 Labor-HHS Appropriations Bill: On November 25, 2025, alongside other members of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Coalition, APTA signed on to a letter to Senate leadership asking for passage of the Senate L-HHS bill.
- Department of Education: On November 24, 2025, Congressman Mike Lawler (R-NY) sent a letter to Education Secretary Linda McMahon encouraging the Department of Education to maintain a broader definition of “professional degrees” consistent with federal law and workforce needs.
 - Lawler stressed that too many hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities are already struggling to recruit skilled workers, and any ambiguity or restrictive interpretation from the Department risks worsening national workforce shortages.
 - “The Department must update its proposed rule so that students in nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other critical workforce fields will not be squeezed out of the graduate loan support Congress intended for them.”said the Congressman.
 - The letter to Secretary Linda McMahon can be found [HERE](#).
 - In addition, on December 5, 2025, Rep. Kennedy (D-NY) was joined by 69 other House Democrats in a sign-on letter to Secretary Linda McMahon expressing their concerns about the proposal and urging the Department of Education to reconsider it.
 - Letter to Secretary McMahon can be found [HERE](#).

Regulatory Update:

- CMS: On November 28, 2025, CMS released the final rule for the FY 2026 Home Health Perspective Payment System.
 - Home health agencies will see a 1.3% cut to Medicare payments in 2026—an improvement over the initial proposal which called for up to a 9% cut.
 - Instead, the new rule includes a 1.023% permanent cut to home health agency reimbursement rates and a 3% temporary reduction, or a \$220 million decrease in payments compared to 2025.