



Congressional Affairs Update November 2020

Fee Schedule Bills

- **H.R. 8702** (*Holding Providers Harmless From Medicare Cuts During COVID-19 Act of 2020*). Introduced by Rep. Bera and Rep. Bucshon. This bill would provide a two year delay to the proposed fee schedule cuts by providing a “relief payment” to those impacted providers that would offset the cut. **5 House co-sponsors**
- **H.R. 8505** : This bill provides a one year delay to the fee schedule cuts by waiving budget neutrality. Introduced by Rep. Burgess and Rep. Rush. **6 House co-sponsors**
- **H.R. 7154** (*Outpatient Therapy Modernization and Stabilization Act*). Introduced by Rep. Boyle and Rep. Buchanan. This bill would address the fee schedule cuts, telehealth, and therapy plan of care issues. **13 House co-sponsors**

APTA Lead Bills

- **Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act of 2019 (S. 970/H.R. 2802):** This bill adds physical therapists to the National Health Service Corps.
 - 97 House and 8 Senate co-sponsors.
- **Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act (H.R. 3637/S. 2747):** Expands opportunities to increase workforce diversity in therapy professions. Passed House.
 - 2 Senate cosponsors.
- **Prevent Interruptions in Physical Therapy Act (H.R. 5453):** Expands locum tenens arrangements for physical therapists.
 - 16 cosponsors.
- **Medicare Patient Empowerment Act (S. 2812):** Allows physical therapists to opt out of Medicare.
 - 2 cosponsors.
- **Primary Health Services Enhancement Act (H.R. 5693):** Expands access to physical therapy services in community health centers.
 - 2 cosponsors.
- **CONNECT for Health Act (H.R. 4932/S. 2741):** This bill seeks to expand telehealth services.
 - 68 House and 45 Senate cosponsors.
- **Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2019 (H.R. 3107):** Improves prior authorization policies in Medicare Advantage plans.
 - 262 House co-sponsors.

APTA Supported Bills

- **Promoting Physical Activity for Americans Act (H.R. 2891/S. 1608):** Passed Senate.
 - 15 House cosponsors.
- **Lymphedema Treatment Act (H.R. 1948/S. 518):** Passed House.
 - 70 Senate cosponsors.
- **FY 2020 HHS Appropriations: \$3 million increase in funding for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehab Research:** Signed into law on December 20, 2019.
- **Advancing Care for Exceptional (ACE) Kids Act:** Signed into law on April 18, 2019.
- **Protecting Access to Wheelchairs Act:** Signed into law on December 20, 2019.
- **Home Health Planning Improvement Act (H.R. 2150/S. 296):** Signed into law on March 27 as part of the CARES Act.
- **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Full Funding Act (H.R. 1878/S. 866):**
 - 155 House cosponsors. 18 Senate cosponsors.
- **Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act (H.R. 5611/S. 2600)**
 - 3 House cosponsors.
- **Medicaid Coronavirus Response Act (S. 4108).**
 - 18 cosponsors.
- **Supporting Children with Disabilities During COVID-19 Act (S. 4100)**
 - 20 cosponsors.