

PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

FALL 2019



American Physical Therapy Association of Massachusetts

Welcome to the third Public Policy Newsletter. Our committee continues to deal with all issues related to legislative, payment, reimbursement, insurance and political action committee activities. We look forward to hearing from you: advocacy@aptaofma.org

PHYSICAL THERAPY ADVOCACY AT THE STATE LEVEL

#PTAdvocacy Challenge Winner

APTAMA members participated in the first advocacy challenge by directly connecting with their legislators through email and social media. Our winner was awarded a pair of Red Sox tickets.



Melissa Patrick, SPT, RYT from Simmons College DPT Program

“As a student, I love advocating for the profession and our patients through my involvement with the APTA.” Look out for next year’s challenge in Spring 2020!

Reimbursement & Insurance Updates

- Leadership from the public policy committee and our lobbyists from Smith, Costello & Crawford met with BCBS and Harvard Pilgrim in June
- Discussed the role of physical therapy as a high value and low cost service
- There is an upcoming WCRI meeting next month

CONTACT

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Political Action Committee

Did you know that the PAC for Massachusetts is separate from the national PAC?

The donations made to the MA PT PAC go directly towards issues that affect our profession on the state level

Donate now to help us maintain a voice in the Massachusetts

Legislature:

maptpac.nationbuilder.com

Interested in getting involved with the **Political Action Committee**?

We will be hosting a phone bank drive to call on private practice owners to contribute during the month of September

Judy Hershberg:

JDH241@aol.com

Mark your calendars

Flash Action Strategy

September 18-19

The topic is the National Health Service Corp



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

On the national level, August recess has been a time for representatives to spend time in their districts before returning to Capital Hill this fall

Workforce Diversity

- Legislation introduced in the US House of Representatives seeks to provide \$5 million/year in scholarships and stipends aimed at increasing the # of students from underrepresented populations in PT and other allied health professions
- The bill has passed the House Energy & Commerce Committee; a vote by the full House could happen this fall
- Awaiting a companion bill in the Senate

National Health Service Corp (S. 970) CO-SPONSOR

UPDATE: As of 7/29/19, 43 House co-sponsors, and 5 Senate sponsors. We are targeting senators who sit on the Senate Health, Education, and Labor (HELP) Cmte for co-sponsorship.

Senator Elizabeth Warren sits on this committee and the number to her Boston office: (617) 565-3170
<https://www.apta.org/FederalIssues/EducationWorkforceLegislation/FAQ/>

2020 Proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

APTA will be providing a template letter; deadline to submit comments to CMS is 9.27.2019