



American Physical Therapy Association

# PTeam Alert Newsletter

## **APTA'S GRASSROOTS NETWORK — December 2018 Edition**

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### **2018: A Very Productive Year for APTA Advocates**

As 2018 winds to a close, it is important to look back on the many advocacy accomplishments we achieved together this year. After 20 years of temporary exceptions and other implementation delays, we secured a permanent fix to the Medicare therapy cap. While this victory certainly is big news, there were a number of other notable legislative and regulatory achievements, including enactment of comprehensive opioid legislation that increases awareness and access to nonpharmacological treatment options, enactment of the Sports Medicine Licensure Clarity Act to ensure physical therapists have liability insurance when working with teams across state lines, the elimination of functional limitation reporting, and the expansion of telehealth services in the Veterans Administration and Medicare Advantage. The Physical Therapy Interstate Licensure Compact continued to make progress, with the first licensure privilege being issued and compact legislation enacted in 21 states. These wins help advance the profession, and we are looking forward to even more progress with the start of the 116<sup>th</sup> US Congress this January.

APTA's PT-PAC continues to be a force for people seeking federal offices; roughly 91% of the candidates (challengers, incumbents, and newcomers) who we believe will help push the physical therapy profession forward won their races. However, the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress will have dozens of new faces and new committee chairs, which will continue to require hours of relationship building. Time with new and returning members of Congress will be needed in the early days of 2019. That said, please consider donating to [PT-PAC](#), so that we can do the work necessary to ensure physical therapy remains at the forefront of health care discussions on the Hill.

Thank you for being a member of APTA, an advocate for yourself, your patients, and the profession. We look forward to building on this foundation with the new Congress

APTA wishes you a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Justin Elliott

Vice President, Government Affairs