



# ➤ ADVOCACY IN ACTION

APMA ADVOCACY IMPACT REPORT | 2025 MID-YEAR UPDATE

Support  
APMA  
Advocacy!



# ➤ Lead Efforts to Advance Parity and Modernize Scope of Practice

APMA is working to ensure that podiatrists are recognized and permitted to practice to the full extent of their education and training, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. Here are highlights of our work, including collaborating with state component associations.



## Advocacy Win!

### OPTUM RESCINDS ITS MISCLASSIFICATION OF PODIATRISTS



In response to APMA's coordinated advocacy effort, Optum recently reversed its decision to reclassify podiatrists and recognized podiatrists are independently licensed physicians who undergo specialized education and training. This change in course reaffirms the vital role podiatrists play in advancing clinical outcomes and caring for patients.

APMA is proud to have led this collective advocacy effort and thanks state components, societies, members, and other stakeholders for their strong and relentless advocacy on behalf of the entire profession and patients.

## Advocacy by State



### MASSACHUSETTS

APMA urged the Massachusetts Legislature to modernize the podiatric state scope of practice statute to include treatment of the ankle. We continue to work with the Massachusetts Foot and Ankle Society (MFAS) to increase support from national stakeholder groups for the MFAS bill.



### MISSISSIPPI

We're collaborating with the Mississippi Podiatric Medical Association to modernize scope of practice legislation that would allow podiatrists to treat the foot and ankle.



### NEVADA

APMA is working to stop the Nevada legislature from merging the podiatry board into a consolidated allied health board.



### NEW YORK

APMA is thrilled to congratulate the New York State Podiatric Medical Association (NYSPMA) on a **tremendous victory** on behalf of our mutual members! The NYSPMA modernized scope bill has been approved by both the New York Senate and Assembly. The bill now awaits the Governor's signature.



### US

- Thanks to APMA advocacy efforts, the House passed the SUPPORT ACT (HR 2483), which includes a technical fix to the MATE Act. A Senate companion bill has been introduced.
- The VA CPE Modernization Act (HR 657) has been re-introduced. This bill would reimburse Veterans' Administration podiatrists for continuing medical education as done for MD/DOs.



**\$50,000+**  
in advocacy  
grants awarded to  
**10 state components**  
to support parity and scope  
modernization efforts.



# ➤ Ensure Fair Reimbursement & Financial Security

APMA advocates to ensure fair and sustainable payment rates for services provided by podiatrists.

Physician payment has declined over 30 percent since 2001 when adjusted for practice cost inflation, also known as the Medicare Economic Index.

**Advancing Medicare physician payment reform is one of APMA's primary legislative priorities.** APMA urges Congress to implement structural reforms to the Medicare payment system, including the establishment of an annual inflation adjustment for physicians.



Physician payment has declined **over 30%** since 2001.

## APMA is working with AMA and the entire House of Medicine:



Participated in the **AMA National Advocacy Conference.**



Signed on to joint letters to Congress with **90+ health-care societies.**



Advocated with **75+ medical specialty societies** for payment fixes in the One Big Beautiful Bill.

➤ APMA led a sign-on letter with 42 other state and national podiatric medical societies urging Congress to preserve and protect Medicare and Medicaid patient access to podiatric physicians in the One Big Beautiful Bill.

➤ Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill in early July, securing a 2.5-percent Medicare physician payment increase for 2026 and preserving the SALT deduction for podiatric practices.



## Addressing Administrative Burdens and Onerous Payer Policies

While physician payment continues to decrease, administrative burdens from CMS and private payers continue to increase. APMA is fighting to end these onerous requirements for its members.

### FEDERAL AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

- Sent regulatory relief priorities to:
  - **HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**
  - **CMS Administrator Mehmet Oz, MD**
- Responded to White House request for regulatory burden feedback, spotlighting issues such as:
  - The Same or Similar program
  - Therapeutic Shoes documentation burden

### KEY PAYER ENGAGEMENTS

- **Aetna:**
  - Secured commitment to involve APMA in **project to streamline prior authorization** process.
  - Engaged on **E&M Claim Downcoding policy**, gathering data and strategizing responses.

### ENDORSED LEGISLATION

- **Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act (HR 879/S 1640).**  
This bill cancels the almost 2.8-percent cut to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and provides an inflationary adjustment.

### ➤ **Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (HR 3514/S 1816).**

This bill streamlines the time-consuming prior authorization process in the Medicare Advantage Program.

### HEALTH POLICY AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE ANNUAL PRIORITIES SET

- -59 Modifier and Routine Foot Care denials
- -25 Modifier claim denials and payment reduction
- Documentation burdens on therapeutic shoes for patients with diabetes

# ➤ Ensure Continuity for a Strong Podiatry Workforce

APMA is leading efforts for policy and funding for educational programs to recruit, retain, and grow the podiatric workforce.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT

- APMA Podiatrists Move the World campaign launched with the Foundation for Podiatric Education and stakeholders.

## PROTECTING STUDENT ACCESS TO LOANS

- Partnered with AACPM and APMSA on a grassroots campaign opposing harmful student loan proposals in the One Big Beautiful Bill.
- Signed joint letters with over 100 health-care and medical organizations urging the Senate to protect graduate student loan access.
- Proposed alternative policies to key Senate leaders with AACPM and the Association of American Medical Colleges.



Congress passed the One Big Beautiful Bill in early July. APMA continues to advocate **against new limits on federal student aid.**



# ➤ Public Promotion of Podiatry

➤ **Nearly 100 podiatrists** took part in the 2025 Legislative Conference. Participants spent the first day of the conference preparing for congressional visits and hearing from influential congressional staff. On day two, we took to the Hill, advocating for the profession and sharing the value of care podiatrists provide to their patients and the US health-care system.



➤ APMA leaders participated in the GOP Doc Caucus' annual House Call on the Mall and engaged with other physician leaders.

➤ APMA is spearheading a new branding campaign to raise public perception of the profession.



APMAPAC and  
POP Dollars raised:

**\$235,336\***

- PAC: \$154,169
- POP: \$81,167



Total eAdvocacy  
Letters sent:

**2,062\***

*\*as of June 30*



## Support APMAPAC



**PURPOSE:** The American Podiatric Medical Association Political Action Committee's purpose is to raise and disburse funds to candidates for federal office that support the legislative priorities and goals of the podiatric medical profession.

**IMPORTANT:** These are suggested amounts. You may contribute or not contribute without concern of being favored or disadvantaged. Occupation/Employer information is required for aggregate annual contributions of more than \$200.00 by the Federal Election Campaign Act. Federal election law does not permit corporate contributions to be used for donations to candidates for federal office. Political contributions are not deductible for income tax purposes.

**JOIN THE FIGHT:** [www.apma.org/eAdvocacy](http://www.apma.org/eAdvocacy)

**CONTACT US:** [advocacy@apma.org](mailto:advocacy@apma.org)

**FIND OUR POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA:** #WeAreAPMA | #APMAAdvocates

## Save the Date!

**2026 APMA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

March 17–18, 2026 | Washington, DC