



➤ ADVOCACY IN ACTION

APMA ADVOCACY IMPACT REPORT | 2026 MID-YEAR UPDATE

apma ➤
Advancing foot and ankle
medicine and surgery



**SUPPORT
APMA
ADVOCACY!**

Advocacy by the Numbers



26 advocacy letters

to Congress, federal agencies, and payers

7 letters

to hospitals and health systems

2,339

grassroots advocacy messages sent by APMA members in 2026



75 national and state organizations

endorsing the Diabetes Foot Health Access and Modernization Act

\$231,544 raised

to advance podiatry's political influence

5 high-level meetings

with CMS, MedPAC, and private Insurers

200+ congressional meetings

during APMA's Legislative Conference; **25** directly with members of Congress



59 House and Senate cosponsors

for the Diabetes Foot Health Access and Modernization Act

Ensuring Fair Reimbursement & Financial Security



APMA President Patrick A. DeHeer, DPM, at AMA meeting.

Diabetes Foot Health Access and Modernization Act Introduced (HR 7905/S 7040)

We launched a new legislative strategy for APMA's signature diabetes foot bill, securing bicameral, bipartisan House and Senate leads, including physician members of Congress and influential committee leaders.

Visit www.apma.org/diabetesfootbill to learn more and take action.

Medicare Physician Payment Reform

- Elevated podiatry's voice in Medicare payment reform by helping shape payment reform legislation with physician members of Congress and national medical societies.
- Advocacy efforts led to unanimous House committee approval of the *Provider Reimbursement Stability Act (HR 8163)*.

Reducing Prior Authorization and Administrative Burdens

APMA advanced a comprehensive strategy to reduce prior authorization burdens by leading congressional advocacy for the *Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act (HR 3514/S 1816)* while working with CMS and national stakeholders to improve implementation of the CMS WISer Model and reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on podiatric physicians.

Modifier Advocacy

- Engaged CMS to improve its guidance on 59 modifier, supporting accurate coding and fair reimbursement.
- In collaboration with state societies, engaged private payers to oppose restrictive modifier 25 reimbursement policies.



Advancing Parity and Modernizing Scope of Practice

Together, APMA and its state component societies are driving state advocacy victories that protect patients and advance the profession!



Maryland Governor Wes Moore signed IPMLC legislation into law, with Jay S. LeBow, DPM, FPMB Director of Compact Enactment and Licensure Pathways.

Advocacy Wins!



INTERSTATE COMPACT LICENSE

The Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact (IPMLC) reached an important milestone in 2026. Following months of advocacy by APMA, state component societies, and the Federation of Podiatric Medical Boards, two states passed the IPMLC:

- Maryland (#1)
- Iowa (#2)



SCOPE OF PRACTICE ADVANCEMENTS

- **Florida:** Protected podiatric physicians' access to cellular and tissue-based products through successful state advocacy.
- **Tennessee:** Modernized podiatric physicians' scope of practice to permit treatment of soft tissue distal to the tibial tuberosity.
- **Kentucky:** Expanded podiatric physicians' authority to supervise physician assistants.

Building Congressional Support for Podiatric Medicine

APMA Legislative Conference

APMA's two-day Legislative Conference, held in March, strengthened relationships with Congress and advanced the profession's federal advocacy agenda. More than 200 meetings with congressional offices—including 25 meetings with members of Congress—gave podiatric physicians a direct voice on Capitol Hill. The conference also featured seven bipartisan Members of Congress, including leaders from the GOP Doctors Caucus and Democratic Doctors Caucus, demonstrating APMA's strong congressional relationships and growing influence.



Top: Dr. DeHeer presented Rep. John Joyce, MD (R-PA), with the APMA Distinguished Legislator Award.

Next: Podiatric medical students participated in the 2026 Legislative Conference.

Bottom Right: Rep. Herb Conaway Jr., MD (D-NJ).

Bottom Left: Members of APMA's Indiana delegation spoke with Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) at the 2026 Legislative Conference.



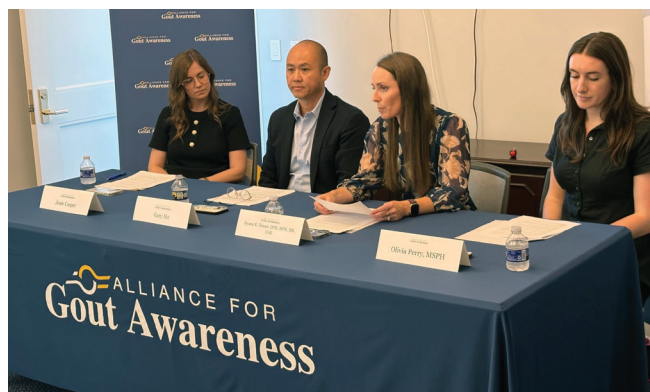


Congressional Briefings

APMA led and contributed to three congressional briefings that educated members of Congress and congressional staff on the important role of podiatric physicians in the health-care system.



Hosted a congressional briefing on therapeutic shoes for patients with diabetes and APMA's Diabetes Foot Health Access and Modernization Act, featuring APMA President Dr. DeHeer, congressional champions, clinical experts, and patient advocates.



Participated in the Gout Awareness Month briefing, with APMA Chief Medical Officer Dyane Tower, DPM, MPH, MS, CAE, highlighting the role of podiatric physicians in gout care.

Participated in a Congressional PAD Caucus briefing, with APMA Trustee David Alper, DPM, highlighting the role of podiatric physicians in the management of peripheral artery disease.



APMAPAC Hosted Fundraisers

APMAPAC hosted fundraising events for longtime champions of podiatric medicine—Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL) at the Science and Medicine Meeting in Florida and Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA), at The Western in California—to strengthen relationships with key congressional advocates and build long-term legislative support for the profession.



Top: L to R: FPMA Treasurer Timothy Miller, DPM; Rep. Darren Soto (D-FL); and APMA Trustee David Schweibish, DPM, MBA.

Bottom: CPMA Executive Director Michael J. Cornelison, DPM; Dr. DeHeer; Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA); and APMA CEO Meghan McClelland, MBA.



Support APMAPAC



PURPOSE: The American Podiatric Medical Association Political Action Committee's purpose is to raise and disburse funds to candidates for federal office who 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.

TAKE ACTION! www.apma.org/eadvocracy

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

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