

Weekly Update During the CT Legislative Session -- February 1–7, 2026

Focused on ConnOTA's top advocacy priorities

Hot Items This Week

- **Modernizing the OT Practice Act** — active discussions with Public Health; early feedback is positive
- **OT Licensure Compact** — may be second in line for bill consideration this session
- Proposed elimination of OT & OTA licensure renewal fees
- Strong member outreach and supportive legislator responses

Advocacy Asks

- **Act Now: Contact Your Legislators** – Our advocacy and letter-writing efforts are working—but we cannot pause. Please contact your Connecticut legislators now to support modernization of our practice act and Connecticut's participation in the OT Licensure Compact.
- **Submit Stories: Support Legislative Action** – ConnOTA is collecting brief examples showing how licensing costs, an outdated practice act, workforce shortages, student debt, Medicaid reimbursement, or Medicare policy changes affect OT practice, access to care, or sustainability in Connecticut. Send submissions to govaffairs@connota.org
- **Close the Loop: Legislator Responses** – Please forward any responses from legislators to govaffairs@connota.org to support ongoing advocacy efforts.
- **Need Support or Have Questions?** If you need assistance or have questions, please email Joyce Rioux at jrioux88@gmail.com or our team at govaffairs@connota.org

ConnOTA Weekly Legislative & Advocacy Update

1. **Legislative Session Begins**
The 2026 Connecticut Legislative Session has begun, with committees now active.
2. **Licensure Fee Relief**
Governor Lamont's budget proposes eliminating OT and OTA licensure renewal fees.
3. **OT Licensure Compact (ConnOTA Priority)**
The OT Licensure Compact may not advance this session, following EMS compact legislation prioritized due to potential federal Rural Health Transformation Program funding. Just the same, don't stop writing to your legislators and requesting support.
4. **OT Practice Act Modernization (ConnOTA Priority)**
ConnOTA continues advancing OT Practice Act modernization, sharing proposed language, rationale, and compact-supportive elements with Public Health Committee.
5. **Student Loans & Workforce Policy**
State responses to federal HR 1 student loan discussions are being monitored to ensure OT inclusion.
6. **Medicaid Policy Monitoring**
Federal HR 1 Medicaid discussions are also being monitored for impacts on OT services.

7. Workforce Strategy

Workforce remains a major policy focus; OT messaging alignment is critical.

8. Scope of Practice Activity

Scope of practice activity is being monitored, including recent DPH reviews for PT and drama therapy.

9. Medicare Payment Policy

Federal advocacy continues around repeal of the Medicare Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction (MPPR).

10. Member-Driven Advocacy

ConnOTA's advocacy strength comes from its members—OTPs and future OTPs are engaging legislators and receiving supportive responses.