

Weekly Update During the CT Legislative Session -- February 15-21, 2026

Focused on ConnOTA's top advocacy priorities

Advocacy Asks

Legislative activity is accelerating, and our advocacy efforts are gaining traction. This is not the moment to pause — it is the moment to amplify.

- **Take Action: Contact Your Legislators**
Outreach from ConnOTA members is making an impact. Continue to contact your CT legislators to support modernization of our practice act & to join the OT Licensure Compact. Consistent engagement strengthens our position.
- **Share Your Story**
Real-world examples matter. We are collecting brief stories illustrating how licensing costs, outdated statutory language, workforce shortages, student debt, Medicaid reimbursement, or Medicare policy changes affect OT practice & access to care in CT.
- **Help Us Track the Conversation**
Forward any legislator responses so we can coordinate follow-up & strengthen our strategy.
- **Contact Us**
Government Affairs team at govaffairs@connota.org

Hot Items This Week

- **SB 8 — An Act Concerning Protections for Students and Higher Education in Response to HR 1**
 - **Testimony:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FNmts27XKFw> (scroll to 2:13)
Latasha Dionne delivered oral testimony on behalf of ConnOTA to elevate graduate student concerns and the need for state-level solutions to support students.
- **HB 5169 — An Act Establishing an Alert in the State-Wide Health Information Exchange**
 - **Testimony:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFwAOxir1Gk> (scroll to 6:35)
Joyce Rioux provided oral testimony to advocate for occupational therapy practitioners' access to alerts that support informed planning and safety during home and community visits.
- **HB 5160 — An Act Appropriating Funds to Assist Homeless Persons**
 - **Written Testimony:** <https://shorturl.at/Gsod7>
ConnOTA submitted written testimony highlighting occupational therapy's role in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Emergency Medical Services Licensure Interstate Compact**
 - **Status:** The Public Health Committee indicated CT may not join the EMS compact yet due to limited participation from neighboring states.
 - **Monitoring:** ConnOTA is tracking these decisions, & the window of opportunity to join the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact possibly opening.
- **CT OT Licensure Renewal — \$5 to HAVEN**
 - **Confirmed:** CT DPH verified \$5 of our renewal fee goes to HAVEN.

- **Next Steps:** We are in a discovery phase with HAVEN to understand this benefit for practitioners.
- **Strategy:** This information will directly shape our upcoming advocacy efforts.

ConnOTA Weekly Legislative & Advocacy Update

1. Legislative Session

As the number of raised bills continues to grow this session, ConnOTA's monitoring list is expanding as well to ensure we remain informed and responsive to issues impacting occupational therapy practice and the communities we serve.

2. OT Licensure Compact (ConnOTA Priority)

Continued advocacy efforts needed

3. OT Practice Act Modernization (ConnOTA Priority)

Continued advocacy efforts needed

4. Medicaid Policy Monitoring

Federal HR 1 Medicaid discussions are also being monitored for impacts on OT services.

5. Prior Authorization

Engaging in early discussions within the CT Healthcare Collective to identify collective advocacy opportunities addressing barriers to care related to prior authorization.

6. Workforce Strategy

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

7. Scope of Practice Activity

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

8. Medicare Payment Policy

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

9. ConnOTA Spring Summit

March 7, 2026 (virtual): Advocacy Chat featuring legislative updates, advocacy levers, and strategies to prevent burnout.

10. Member-Driven Advocacy

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