



# Government Affairs: 2024-2025 Advocacy Report

*Advancing the Profession through Legislative Action & Community Engagement*

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## The Year's "Big Wins"

- **Licensure Fee Victory:** Successfully advocated for legislation (SB 1246) to eliminate OT and OTA licensure fees. After passing both the House and Senate, this landmark bill awaits the Governor's signature to provide direct financial relief to practitioners across Connecticut.
  - **Modernizing Our Practice Act:** Introduced SB 1052 to align Connecticut with national standards and pave the way for the Interstate Licensure Compact. While the Public Health Committee has deferred scope bills this year, we have successfully completed the DPH review and are positioned as a "squeaky wheel" for the 2026 session.
  - **Anthem Reimbursement Success:** In collaboration with AOTA, ConnOTA successfully influenced Elevance Health (Anthem) to pause a \$80 daily capitated rate adjustment, protecting fair compensation for private practitioners.
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## Legislative Presence & "Squeaky Wheel" Advocacy

- **OT Day at the State Capitol (4/25/25):** Hosted a high-visibility advocacy table in the Legislative Office Building. We delivered "Advocacy Care Kits" (containing professional resources and rubber ducks!) to the Public Health Committee to ensure OT remains top-of-mind for lawmakers.
  - **Capitol Tours & Action Nights:** Empowered members through hands-on "Capitol Tours" and Legislative Action Nights, where practitioners learned to navigate the "minor leagues" of special committees and draft impactful testimony.
  - **Hill Day in DC:** ConnOTA took the fight to the national level in September, meeting with the offices of Senators Blumenthal and Murphy to advocate for removing insurance barriers to care and reducing administrative burdens in School-Based Medicaid.
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## Clinical Excellence & Community of Practice Advocacy

- **Mental Health Leadership:** Facilitated a Mental Health CoP session and drafted a new Resource Guide for the ConnOTA Practice Center. We actively participated in the NAMI CT Public Policy Coalition and the AOTA Mental Health Coalition to promote OT's role in behavioral health.

- **Caregiver Training Opportunity:** Secured a time-limited opportunity (through Sept 2025) for members to receive free evidence-informed training in the COPE and Confident Caregiver programs.

## Cultivating the Next Generation

- **Classroom to Advocacy:** Developed and distributed a real-world advocacy resource for OT/OTA programs across CT and neighboring states to bridge the gap between theory and policy.
- **Fieldwork Excellence:** Welcomed Level 1 Fieldwork students from CT State Manchester, who assisted in monitoring legislative trends and delivering advocacy initiatives.
- **Student Leadership:** Supported Sacred Heart University (SHU) students in developing a professional Advocacy Toolkit and presenting their findings at the ConnOTA Fall Conference.

## Monitoring & Protecting the Scope

- **Interprofessional Vigilance:** Monitored "Dry Needling" and "Instrument Assisted Modalities" trends in neighboring states to ensure Connecticut practitioners remain protected and prepared.
- **Medicaid Watchdogs:** Actively engaged with the DSS to oppose physician referral requirements for school-based services, aiming to reduce delays in care for underserved students.

## 2024-2025 by the Numbers

Metric	Impact
Legislative Engagement	600+ Bills Monitored; Top 5 Tracked Daily
Licensure Fees	\$0 (Pending Governor Signature)

## How to Stay Involved

1. **Check the Website:** Download the new School OT Guidelines and the Advocacy Toolkit.
2. **Report Issues:** Use the OHA HIPAA forms to report wheelchair repair delays.
3. **Save the Date:** Join us for AOTA Hill Day this September and our next Advocacy Chat.

*The voice of one practitioner is a whisper; the voice of ConnOTA is a roar. Thank you for being the squeaky wheel that drives change.*