



Federal Advocacy Update: Week of October 6, 2025

The APA Advocacy Office has provided several key updates impacting psychologists, students, and patients across the country.



Federal Budget & Government Shutdown

The federal government remains shut down as Congress debates how to move forward—either through a short-term spending bill without policy changes or by extending Affordable Care Act subsidies and reversing recent Medicaid cuts. While Medicare and Medicaid benefits continue, **administrative delays** are expected, and **grant reviews remain paused**, affecting research and training programs. APA's advocacy focuses on:

- Restoring **Medicare telehealth coverage** rules that expired Oct. 1.
- Permanently repealing the **in-person visit requirement**.
- Ensuring timely resumption of funding and peer review for psychological research and training programs.



Supreme Court: *Chiles v. Salazar*

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in a case challenging **Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors**, raising critical questions about the boundaries between protected speech and regulated professional conduct. A decision is expected by **June 2026**.

APA submitted an amicus brief outlining the **evidence-based harms** of conversion therapy and continues to engage in public education efforts around this issue.



Policy and Practice Updates

- **Research & Digital Mental Health:** APA presented at the Meadows Institute on best practices for digital mental health care. APA also joined a coalition urging Congress to fund NIH plus support for ARPA-H.
- **Medicaid Advocacy Toolkit:** APA launched a new resource to help state associations like CPA strengthen **Medicaid coverage for psychological services**, emphasizing Medicaid's critical role in behavioral health access. CPA will begin implementing aspects of this advocacy and will be reaching out to members to gain participation.
- **Education & Training:** Federal rulemaking is underway to define "professional degrees" for new federal loan limits. APA is strongly advocating for **health service psychology** to

be included, protecting graduate students' access to funding.

- **Health Equity:** APA and CDIP convened a meeting with Colorado psychologists to address concerns from students with disabilities about **school shooter preparedness plans**. CPA contact information was shared as a local partner in this work. CPA has been in contact with the psychologist from Children's who is interested in this work and will continue to discuss possibilities.

Why this matters for Colorado

- Federal budget negotiations will directly affect **funding and telehealth policies** that many Colorado psychologists rely on.
- The outcome of *Chiles v. Salazar* could impact the **state's authority to regulate harmful practices** in mental health.
- APA's Medicaid advocacy tools can help CPA members **protect behavioral health access** in Colorado.
- Ongoing engagement with APA on education and health equity issues ensures Colorado voices are part of the **national advocacy conversation**.