



**2025**

Advocacy Impact Report



Each year, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Policy & Government Affairs Team works to advance policy priorities that support health and healthcare by connecting people, systems, and ideas. In 2025, AHIMA advocacy created meaningful legislative and regulatory changes that matter to the health information (HI) profession and the patients we serve.

Learn more about these accomplishments below.

## Strengthening Grassroots Engagement

Grassroots engagement from AHIMA members plays an important role in advancing the AHIMA Advocacy Agenda. Through AHIMA's [grassroots points system](#), members completed more than 45,000 weighted grassroots actions by participating in policy workgroups, engaging with [advocacy training modules](#) and webinars, attending the AHIMA Advocacy Summit, meeting with congressional offices, and [sending letters to members of Congress](#).

To recognize the impact of component associations (CAs) with the highest engagement, AHIMA presents annual Grassroots Advocacy Awards at the AHIMA Advocacy Summit. The 2024 awards were presented to the [Alaska Health Information Management Association](#) (AkHIMA) in the small state category and the [Indiana Health Information Management Association](#) (IHIMA) in the large state category.

The AHIMA Policy & Government Affairs Team also hosted a new webinar series to keep members informed about the policy landscape and AHIMA's advocacy work. This series included Washington Update webinars in [February](#) and [September](#), along with policy-focused webinars in [April](#) and [July](#).

## Making an Impact at the AHIMA Advocacy Summit

In March 2025, AHIMA held its annual Advocacy Summit in Washington, DC. During the sold-out, two-day event, attendees heard directly from federal policymakers and subject matter experts about public policy issues affecting the HI profession.

AHIMA members also met with members of Congress to advocate on key issues, including the AHIMA-led [MATCH IT Act](#) and workforce implications of artificial intelligence (AI). More than 170 AHIMA members representing 43 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico held 186 meetings with members of Congress and congressional staff. These visits helped influence nine members of Congress to cosponsor the MATCH IT Act.



## Advancing Policy Thought Leadership

In 2025, AHIMA engaged as a thought leader in healthcare with the US Congress and Trump Administration to advance our priorities. This work included [outreach to key leaders in Congress](#) and leadership at the Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy/Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ASTP/ONC), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), and the US Department of Trade.

In June, AHIMA launched its inaugural National Health Data Week, a weeklong effort focused on raising awareness of how health data drives positive outcomes for patients and the broader US healthcare system. As part of the week, AHIMA hosted a Congressional Showcase and Reception on Capitol Hill to educate policymakers about innovations across the health data space. Eleven organizations participated in the event, including Datavant, Oracle Health, MRO, Citizen Health, Premier, Inc., and others.

As part of AHIMA25 in Minneapolis, MN, the AHIMA Policy & Government Affairs Team led the inaugural Policy & Government track. This track included sessions on social determinants of health (SDOH), the latest happenings in both Congress and the Trump Administration, and featured a gameshow that tested attendees' knowledge of key policy issues. The sessions and panels featured speakers from MRO, Datavant, Oracle Health, Fairview Health, UnitedHealth Group, AHIP, and The Sequoia Project. Attendees for AHIMA26 can look forward to this track continuing next year in San Antonio, TX.

The AHIMA Policy & Government Affairs Team also launched the HI-Five podcast, featuring conversations with policy experts on topics relevant to the HI profession. Episodes are available on [YouTube](#), [Spotify](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#), and covered topics such as current events in Congress and the Trump Administration, patient matching, SDOH, veterans' issues, electronic prior authorization, artificial intelligence, and AHIMA25. Guests included Politico's Ben Leonard, Sarah DeSilvey of the Gravity Project, Representative Tom Barrett (R-MI), members of the Health IT End-Users Alliance, and Mark Sendak of the Health AI Partnership and Vega Health. Across ten episodes, the podcast reached more than 1,700 views and listens.

In addition, the AHIMA Policy & Government Affairs Team was quoted or referenced in a variety of trade and policy publications this year, including [Fierce Healthcare](#), [Healthcare IT Today](#), and [Lemonmint](#). The team also participated in a number of speaking events including HIMSS25, the AHIP Medicare, Medicaid, Duals & Commercial Markets Forum, RISE AI Summit, RISE Summit on SDOH, National HIPAA Summit, The Sequoia Project Government Affairs Roundtable, the Health Management Academy Spring CMIO Forum & CMIO Fellow Annual Meeting, DirectTrust



Annual Meeting, The Sequoia Project Data Usability Virtual Workshop, CHIA Revenue Cycle Academy Webinar Series, the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) Information Blocking In Focus event, and the AMA CPT Symposium, as well as several AHIMA CA annual meetings.

To ensure members are informed about the policies that impact the profession, AHIMA provided updates about major events related to the federal government. AHIMA created a [fact sheet](#) for [HR 1](#), the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, highlighting relevant health-related provisions to the HI profession. In addition, AHIMA published a one-pager during the 43-day [government shutdown](#), describing the status of health programs during the lapse in funding.

## AHIMA's Key Policy Pillars in 2025

1. Ensuring the quality, integrity, and usability of health information
2. Improving the individual's health journey through access to information, protecting privacy, and the collection, sharing, and use of SDOH
3. Advancing healthcare transformation

### Pillar 1

## Ensuring the Quality, Integrity, and Usability of Health Information

### Promote Access to Accurate, Timely, and Complete Information

- ✔ Submitted [comments](#) to CMS in response to the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) and Long-Term Care Hospital Prospective Payment System (LTCH PPS) proposed rule.
- ✔ Submitted [comments](#) to CMS on the calendar year (CY) 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule.
- ✔ Submitted [comments](#) to CMS on the Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) proposed rule.
- ✔ Endorsed [HR 3514](#) / [S 1816](#), the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act, and promoted an email campaign within the AHIMA Action Center which resulted in over 270 letters to Congress in support of the issue.
- ✔ Submitted three [comment letters](#) to CMS in response to ICD-10-PCS code proposals presented at 2025 ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee meetings.
- ✔ Submitted two [comment](#) letters to the CDC National Center for Health Statistics in response to ICD-10-CM code proposals presented at the September 2025 ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee meeting.
- ✔ Authored a [brief](#) titled "Best Practices for Validating and Documenting Social Diagnoses" in collaboration with other Gravity Project leaders.

### Patient Identification and Matching

- ✔ With the [Patient ID Now coalition](#) and Representatives Mike Kelly (R-PA) and Bill Foster (D-IL), reintroduced [HR 2002, the Patient Matching and Transparency in Certified Health IT \(MATCH IT\) Act of 2025](#) which received bipartisan support and garnered 11 cosponsors in the US House of

Representatives. The MATCH IT Act would improve standards and definitions to advance patient matching within the healthcare ecosystem.

- ✓ Achieved \$3 million in level funding in the fiscal year 2025 federal budget for ASTP/ONC to “work with industry to develop matching standards that prioritize interoperability, patient safety, and patient privacy.”
- ✓ Succeeded in the continued inclusion of \$3 million in the US House of Representatives’ version of the fiscal year 2026 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for ASTP/ONC to address patient matching.
- ✓ AHIMA, as part of the Patient ID Now coalition, submitted [comments](#) to CMS on the [Health Technology Ecosystem Request for Information \(RFI\)](#).
- ✓ With the [Patient ID Now coalition](#), led letters to the [US House Appropriations Committee](#) and [US Senate Appropriations Committee](#) from 158 organizations urging the repeal of Section 510 in the fiscal year 2026 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bills.
- ✓ Garnered 14 US Representatives’ signatures on a Dear Colleague letter requesting Section 510 be removed from the FY26 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill.
- ✓ In conjunction with CHIME and the Patient ID Now coalition, hosted a congressional briefing on Capitol Hill: “[The Perfect Match: Solving Patient Misidentification Challenges with the MATCH IT Act.](#)”
- ✓ In conjunction with the Patient ID Now coalition, hosted Patient ID Week, highlighting the impacts patient misidentification has on healthcare costs and patient safety and privacy.
- ✓ In a year-long campaign, over 2,500 emails were sent to Congress, and over 150 social media posts were posted through AHIMA’s Action Center in support of the MATCH IT Act.

## Strengthen the Health Information Workforce

- ✓ Endorsed [HR 1151](#) / [S 756](#), the Freedom to Invest in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act, and promoted an email campaign which resulted in over 400 letters to Congress in support of the issue. This bill was included in [HR 1](#), the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, that was signed into law in July. This enacted legislation will modernize 529 accounts, traditionally used to cover tuition expenses for college and graduate degrees, to include certification and credentialing costs as qualified expenses.
- ✓ Endorsed [HR 935](#), the Health Care Workforce Innovation Act, and promoted an email campaign which resulted in over 600 letters to Congress in support of the issue. This legislation would establish a grant program focused on increasing the number of allied health professionals, including HI professionals, in the workforces of underserved communities and rural areas.
- ✓ In conjunction with IFHIMA, released an [issue brief](#) on global policy recommendations for growing the health information workforce and implementing AI, a follow up document to the Global Virtual Policy Summit held in November 2024.

## Improved Oversight of Artificial Intelligence

- ✓ Submitted a [response](#) to the [Networking and Information Technology Research and Development \(NITRD\) RFI](#) on the Development of an AI Action Plan.
- ✓ As part of the [Health IT End-Users Alliance](#), released the coalition’s third [consensus statement on AI](#), discussing current policy related to AI and providing policy principles and recommendations. The Alliance’s consensus statement was featured in Inside Health Policy, as well as the WEDI and Health AI Partnership newsletters.

- ✓ As part of the Health IT End-Users Alliance, submitted a [letter](#) to NIST with feedback and recommendations on its AI Standards Zero Drafts Pilot Project.
- ✓ As part of the Health IT End-Users Alliance, submitted a [letter](#) to NIST with feedback on the first AI Standards Zero Drafts Pilot Project outline on testing, evaluation, verification, and validation.
- ✓ As part of the Health IT End-Users Alliance, hosted a listening session with NIST to reinforce feedback provided in response to the AI Standards Zero Drafts Pilot Project.
- ✓ As part of the Health IT End-Users Alliance, [commented](#) on an RFI from the White House OSTP related to regulatory reform on AI.

#### Pillar 2

## Improving Individuals' Health Journey through Access to Information, Protecting Privacy, and the Collection, Sharing, and Use of SDOH

### Protect Individuals' Privacy and Security

- ✓ Attended an invite-only Data Privacy Working Group Meeting held by the US House of Representatives' Energy & Commerce Committee.
- ✓ Submitted [comments](#) to OCR on the HIPAA Security Rule to Strengthen the Cybersecurity of Electronic Health Information [Proposed Rule](#).
- ✓ Submitted a [response](#) to the US House of Representatives' Privacy Working Group RFI on data privacy and security.
- ✓ Issued a [fact sheet](#) on judicial updates pertaining to the OCR HIPAA Privacy Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy Final Rule.

#### Pillar 3

## Advancing Healthcare Transformation

### Pursue Better Information Flows

- ✓ Submitted comments to the CMS and ASTP/ONC Health Technology Ecosystem RFI, both from [AHIMA](#) and as part of the [Health IT End-Users Alliance](#).
- ✓ Participated in an invite-only listening session with CMS and ASTP/ONC on the Health Technology Ecosystem RFI.
- ✓ Joined more than 190 organizations in signing on to a [letter](#) to appropriations leadership of the 119th Congress urging that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) be fully funded.
- ✓ Joined 104 organizations in a [letter](#) to leadership of the US Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the US House of Representatives Energy & Commerce Committee to support the United States Preventive Services Task Force's (USPSTF) current structure and operations.



- ✔ Released a [fact sheet](#) on the details and recommendations within the CMS Interoperability Framework.
- ✔ Briefed Assistant Secretary of Technology Policy/National Coordinator Dr. Thomas Keane on the key ASTP/ONC policies impacting HI professionals and provided recommendations for how to improve those policies.

## Improve Payment and Delivery Models

- ✔ Joined 347 organizations on a [letter](#) to congressional leadership of the 119th Congress urging them to preserve and extend or make permanent current telehealth flexibilities.
- ✔ Joined 344 organizations on a [letter](#) to congressional leadership requesting continued support for telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries.
- ✔ Joined 58 organizations on a [letter](#) to congressional leadership stating how the lapse in telehealth access has caused widespread uncertainty in healthcare and negative impacts to Medicare beneficiaries.
- ✔ Joined 450 organizations on a [letter](#) to congressional leadership urging Congress to reinstate telehealth access to Medicare beneficiaries, ensure retroactive reimbursement of services rendered during the gap, and provide a long-term solution for telehealth flexibilities.

Transforming health and healthcare will not happen overnight. AHIMA remains committed to working with our federal policymakers to improve health and healthcare through the creation, collection, exchange, and use of trusted health data to attain the highest level of individual and community health.

The AHIMA Policy & Government Affairs Team thanks all of our advocates and volunteers for their continued support and commitment to AHIMA policy and advocacy activities in Washington, DC.



For more information or for questions,  
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