CRT Update:
Legislature Takes Action in Late August

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House Passes Choices for Mobility Act of 2026

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed HR 1703, the Choices for Mobility Act of 2026.

The legislation would allow consumers to select the manual wheelchair that best meets their lifestyle needs. Under the bill, individuals who choose a titanium or composite wheelchair would pay only the difference in cost between the upgraded chair and a standard model. The measure would not increase costs to taxpayers, as consumers would pay any upgraded expenses.

The bill now moves to the Senate, where Sens. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., have introduced companion legislation.

State Legislative Wins for CRT Consumers

As legislative sessions conclude across much of the country, several states have enacted changes through legislation or regulation that will improve access to services for Complex Rehab Technology consumers.

• California increased its repair prior-authorization threshold to $2,500, effective Aug. 1. Repairs below that amount no longer require a Treatment Authorization Request.

• Illinois increased its prior-authorization threshold to $1,500.

These changes are expected to streamline the repair process and reduce delays for consumers who depend on CRT equipment.

NCART Welcomes Three New Board Members

NCART, the National Coalition of Assistive and Rehabilitative Technology, recently held elections for its board of directors and is pleased to welcome three new members:

• Alexis Ward, Cubby Beds

• Michael Hughes, Motion Composites

• Derek Meier, Rifton

Each brings unique experience, expertise and perspectives that will help strengthen NCART and support its mission. The organization looks forward to working with them during their two-year terms.

NCART Executive Director to Retire

I informed the board of directors of my intention to retire at the end of 2026.

I have been honored to work with an incredible board of directors, NCART members and an outstanding team. During the past four years, we have achieved a great deal together, and none of it would have been possible without the dedication of our stakeholders.

We have continued to strengthen our relationships with iNRRTS, the International Registry of Rehabilitative Technology Suppliers; RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America; the Clinician Task Force; and U.S. Rehab, helping advance the CRT industry. Most importantly, I want to thank everyone who serves consumers every day. Your work helps people live more independent and fulfilling lives, and I am grateful to have been part of that mission.

I will remain with NCART through the end of 2026 to assist with leadership transition efforts and support the organization's next executive director.

Thank You

There are far too many people to thank individually, but I would like to recognize a few who have made a lasting impact on my career. First, I want to thank Scott Meuser for giving me an opportunity at Pride Mobility Products shortly after I graduated from college. Covering Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana in my trusty minivan, known as the “Grey Ghost,” provided experiences and friendships that have lasted a lifetime.

Throughout my career, I have learned from countless colleagues, clinicians, suppliers, manufacturers and advocates. I have also had the privilege of working closely with the iNRRTS board and staff and maintaining a friendship of more than 20 years with Amy Odom, a fellow Lubbock, Texas, native.

Most importantly, I want to thank all of you. Every day, you provide the expertise,

service and support that people rely on to live their best lives. You deliver hope, create opportunities and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Rather than saying goodbye, I will simply say: See you later.

Wayne

Advocacy Quote

"Joyfully we undertake our daily work."
— Lailah Gifty Akita,
“Pearls of Wisdom: Great Mind”

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Wayne Grau is the executive director of the National Coalition for Assistive & Rehab Technology. His career in the Complex Rehab Technology industry spans more than 30 years and includes work in rehab industry affairs and, later, exclusively with complex rehab companies. Grau graduated from Baylor University with an MBA in healthcare. He's excited to be working exclusively with complex rehab manufacturers, providers and the individuals served who use CRT equipment.