



Dear Representative _____:

I urge you as my representative to join the bicameral, bipartisan Arthritis Caucus. The Caucus is designed to inform Members of Congress and their staff about ways to prevent, control and eventually cure arthritis.

Arthritis is our nation's leading cause of disability. Two major types of arthritis alone – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – cost the U.S. economy more than \$156 billion annually in lost wages and medical expenses. More than 50 million Americans have arthritis now, and that number is expected to climb to 67 million in just 15 years.

Today, arthritis advocates are visiting Capitol Hill as part of the Arthritis Foundation's Advocacy Summit, an annual event where people living with and affected by arthritis come from every corner of the United States to Washington, DC. I want my voice to echo theirs, and I hope you will lend your support to this important cause. **I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis in 2013 and I am currently on a triple-step therapy. I look forward to the day that we have a cure.**

The Bicameral Congressional Arthritis Caucus, chaired by Representative Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) and Representative David B. McKinley (R-WV), serves as an arthritis information clearinghouse and is a bipartisan forum working on legislative solutions for the challenges people with arthritis face. Raising awareness about arthritis and educating all members about its impact on their districts and constituents are key goals for the caucus, along with seeking support for federal and local policies addressing arthritis.

Join the Congressional Arthritis Caucus and unite in the fight against arthritis. For more information, or to become a member, please contact Erin Katzelnick-Wise in the office of Representative Eshoo at erin.katzelnick-wise@mail.house.gov or Devon Seibert in the office of Representative McKinley at devon.seibert@mail.house.gov.

I hope to hear that you will take a step toward conquering arthritis by joining the Bicameral Congressional Arthritis Caucus.

Regards,

Carrie Hughes
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Anytown, USA 00000

