



Advocacy in ACTION

Fighting for People with Arthritis



Arthritis Foundation Advocacy in Action

March 11, 2015

Volume 2, Issue 5

We'll Be Your Voice on Capitol Hill

The 2015 Arthritis Foundation Advocacy Summit is less than two weeks away and **we need everyone to take action!** You are a crucial part in the push to ensure that the voice of people with arthritis is heard on the Hill. You don't even have to travel to Washington, DC, to get involved in advocacy.

Our Virtual Summit starts with a good old-fashioned letter writing campaign, and that's where you, and your friends and family members, get involved! The letters we receive will be hand delivered to members of Congress when we visit their offices during the Advocacy Summit. The letters will help amplify our voice and make the point that people with arthritis need access to timely, affordable, game-changing medications to treat arthritis.

Please spread the word and complete your letter today. It's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Visit our [letter writing page](#) and take a couple of minutes to personalize the letter and add a photo (optional). **Please note that our deadline is March 16.**
2. Email the letter to advocacy@arthritis.org — please be sure to include your home address on your letter so that your member of Congress receives it.
3. Ask two friends or family members to do the same. **It's that easy!**

Each and every one of us who are dedicated to improving the lives of people with arthritis must

Speak up on the vital issue of access to optimal care.



Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann M. Palmer".

Ann M. Palmer
President and CEO
Arthritis Foundation

Thank You Advocacy Summit Sponsors!

We are looking forward to the 2015 Advocacy Summit March 23-24 and would like to thank the sponsors who have helped to make the 2015 Advocacy Summit possible.



Smith & Nephew

Arthritis Foundation Continues Leadership on Legislative Research Overhaul

The Arthritis Foundation commented on the Senate's version of 21st Century Cures, the congressional effort to improve the drug development, discovery and delivery process. The Senate outlined its proposal in a report called Innovation for Healthier Americans. The Arthritis Foundation [highlighted](#) the need to make it easier for patients to access and afford their medications, and the need to get treatments for arthritis – especially osteoarthritis - to market. The Foundation also coordinated a [sign-on letter](#) urging the Senate to include the Patients' Access to

Treatments Act in its legislation.

Signature Patient Drug Cost Bill to be Re-introduced March 25

The Patients' Access to Treatments Act (PATA), which limits patient cost-sharing in specialty drug tiers, will be re-introduced by Reps. David McKinley (R-WV) and Lois Capps (D-CA) during a press conference on March 25. PATA is the Arthritis Foundation's top federal legislative priority, and we will work closely with Reps. McKinley and Capps to build a lot of support for the bill. More details to come on how you can get involved the week of March 25 to encourage your member of Congress to support the bill.

Arthritis Foundation Testifies in Maryland

The Arthritis Foundation's Director of State Legislative Affairs, Mark Guimond, testified before the Maryland House of Delegates, Health and Government Operations Committee on House Bill 733 about biosimilars. Biosimilars are a new generation of drugs comparable to biologic medications and are expected to offer a financial savings. The Arthritis Foundation believes that the patient/physician relationship is critical, and when a biosimilar is substituted for a biologic, the physician and the patient should be made aware of the substitution.

The hearing may be viewed [here](#) starting at 8:04:53.

*This is a publication from the Arthritis Foundation Advocacy and Access Department.
For questions, please contact us at advocacy@arthritis.org.*

