

Support Access to Medications

House Request: Please Co-Sponsor the Patients' Access to Treatments Act (PATA/H.R. 460) and request a hearing to House Energy and Commerce leadership.
Senate Request: Please introduce a companion bill to PATA.

- H.R. 460, the *Patients' Access to Treatments Act of 2013* (PATA), is bi-partisan legislation introduced by Reps. McKinley (R-WV) and Capps (D-CA) to help eliminate "specialty tiers" in commercial health insurance plans, which can cost patients hundreds of dollars per month for a single medication.
- Individuals unable to afford specialty tier medications are likely to go without crucial medications, resulting in disability and other future health complications that can lead to increased health care costs that affect our entire health care system.
- A study, conducted by Avalere Health, determined that if enacted, insurance premiums would increase only \$3 annually.
- Twenty three national organizations endorse the *Patients' Access to Treatments Act*.

Support Access to Pediatric Rheumatologists

House Request: Please Co-Sponsor the Pediatric Subspecialty and Mental Health Workforce Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1827)
Senate Request: Please introduce a companion bill to H.R. 1827.

- There are 300,000 children, or nearly 1 in 250, who have a form of juvenile arthritis (JA), in the United States and less than 250 practicing, board-certified pediatric rheumatologists to care for them.
- There are currently 11 states without a single board-certified, practicing pediatric rheumatologist and 7 with just one.
- A delay in diagnosis and treatment for children with JA can lead to permanent disability and deformity.
- Representative Joe Courtney (D-CT) has introduced the Pediatric Subspecialty and Mental Health Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2013 (H.R. 1827) to reauthorize this critical program.

Support Research for a Cure

Include "post traumatic osteoarthritis" and "rheumatoid arthritis" research at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) at the Department of Defense (DoD)

- Supporting DoD research will help reduce the arthritis burden on our Nation's warfighters, veterans and civilians.
- Post-traumatic osteoarthritis caused by battlefield injuries is now the primary source of disability for warriors.
- Veterans have twice the rate of osteoarthritis (OA) as their civilian counterparts.
- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) strikes at the peak of one's career (mid-late thirties/forties) and often leads to early retirement and disability.
- "Rheumatoid Arthritis" and "Post traumatic Osteoarthritis" were both included in the Senate Appropriations FY2014 CDMRP/PRP bill.

