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HOUSE PASSES LANDMARK ARTHRITIS LEGISLATION
Bill to Improve Lives for 46 Million People, Including 300,000 Children with Arthritis

ATLANTA, Oct., 13, 2008 – The Arthritis Foundation applauds the U.S. House of Representatives for passing the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act (H.R. 1283), the first comprehensive, bipartisan arthritis legislation in more than 30 years. The legislation, cosponsored by nearly 250 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 55 members of the U.S. Senate, addresses arthritis – the nation’s most common cause of disability that impacts one in five (46 million) Americans and 300,000 children. If passed by the U.S. Senate and signed into law, the bill will expand and strengthen public health initiatives proven to combat the burden of arthritis, and improve access to pediatric rheumatologists to address the country’s severe shortage of these critical health professionals.

“We applaud the House of Representatives for passing the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act, and we appreciate, recognize and applaud the leadership of Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Chip Pickering (R-MS) for moving this critical legislation forward in the House,” said Dr. John Klippel, president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation.

“The Arthritis Foundation is comprised of people all across the nation who have worked tirelessly over the past five years to let Congress know that more needs to be done for people with arthritis. Now that the bill has passed in the House of Representatives, the Arthritis Foundation and our grassroots advocates across the nation will work to see the bill pass in the Senate, signed into law and most importantly, implemented,” said Klippel.

The Arthritis Foundation urges people to show support for this bill by contacting their Senators and becoming an [advocate](#).

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About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation is the leading health organization addressing the needs of some 46 million Americans living with arthritis, the nation's most common cause of disability. Founded in 1948, with headquarters in Atlanta, the Arthritis Foundation has multiple service points located throughout the country.

The Arthritis Foundation is the largest private, not-for-profit contributor to arthritis research in the world, funding more than \$400 million in research grants since 1948. Celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, the foundation helps individuals take control of arthritis by providing public health education; pursuing public policy and legislation; and conducting evidence-based programs to improve the quality of life for those living with arthritis. Information is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-283-7800 or www.arthritis.org.

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