

Arthritis Foundation

Advocacy Report Card

**We're the Champion
of Yes. See some of
our achievements as
we work every day
to conquer arthritis.**



California | 2015

Challenge

Be the authoritative leader on arthritis in the California Legislature.

Action

Co-sponsored Assembly Bill 374 which would allow you and your doctor to request a step therapy exception so you don't have to try and fail several medications prior to your health plan or insurer approving the one your doctor was going to initially prescribe. Assembly Bill 374 will also require that the health plan/insurer approve or deny the exception request within 72 hours (24 for urgent circumstances.) If they fail to respond in that timeframe, your request would be deemed granted.

Impact

Assembly Bill 374 was signed by Governor Brown on October 8th, 2015 after passing off the Assembly floor by a vote of 77 to 1 with 2 votes not recorded and passing off the Senate floor by a vote of 35 to 4 with 1 vote not recorded.

Action

Sponsored Senate Concurrent Resolution 46 which made the month of May Arthritis Awareness Month.

Impact

Resolution passed off the floor of both houses with unanimous support and was signed by Governor Brown. This resolution provided a unique educational opportunity for Members in both the Senate and the Assembly on the impact arthritis has on the 5.9 million Californians with this disease.

Action

Supported Senate Bill 671 which would allow a pharmacist to select an interchangeable biosimilar for a biologic medication so long as your physician does not mark "do not substitute." This bill also ensures both the patient and their prescriber are notified of the change. Senate Bill 671 takes a step in the right direction to bring access to these new, innovative and potentially less expensive biosimilar medications.

Impact

Senate Bill 671 was signed into law by Governor Brown on October 6th, 2015 after passing off the Assembly floor by a vote of 78 to 0 with 2 votes not recorded and passing off the Senate floor by a vote of 38 to 0 with 2 votes not recorded.



Challenge

Be the authoritative leader on arthritis in the California Legislature.

Action

Supported legislation that:

- Caps out of pocket expenses for a 30-day supply of an individual prescription drug (Assembly Bill 339).
- Allows providers offices to access and fill out prior authorization forms electronically (Senate Bill 282).
- Provides a greater voice for caretakers in the treatment of those under their care (Senate Bill 675).
- Requires insurance companies to frequently update provider directories on their websites (Senate Bill 137).

Impact

All four bills were signed into law by Governor Brown.

Action

Held State Capitol Day where Arthritis Foundation volunteers stormed Sacramento.

Impact

More than 40 meetings occurred with members and staffers of the legislature and affected legislative outcomes through Arthritis Foundation visits and testimony.

Challenge

Grow our grassroots network and increase their engagement.

Action

- Added more than 1,600 new advocates to a network of more than 20,000 advocates within California.
- Increased the number of California Ambassadors by more than 50%.
- Had both a patient and a doctor testify to the California State Legislature.
- Featured advocates on two local news programs and in two op-ed's.

Impact

- Engaged Advocates in e-mailing, mailing and tweeting hundreds of messages to their legislators and Governor Brown.
 - Local news program interviews resulted in more than 450,000 views.
 - Twitter account (@AFCAAadvocacy) gained more than 66,885 impressions with more than 70 mentions/retweets.
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