

Arthritis Foundation Advocacy Report Card

August 2015

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



Challenge

Be the authoritative leader on arthritis with state governments

Action

Actively engaged in 133 bills in 46 states, achieving victories on co-pay legislation, formulary transparency, prior authorization limits and biosimilar legislation

Impact

Passed biosimilar legislation impacting the lives of more than 34.6 million patients in 9 states, ensuring affordability, protecting the patient-provider relationship and creating more transparency in state insurance plans

Action

Held 11 State Capitol Days with Arthritis Foundation volunteers combing the state houses

Impact

Touched over 1,500 state legislators and affected legislative outcomes through Arthritis Foundation Advocate visits and testimony in 20 states

Action

Created and currently chair three state coalitions to advance arthritis-related legislation

Impact

Millions of patients with chronic diseases are represented by these coalitions. Enacted legislation includes:

- co-pay cap legislation (10 million people affected)
- physician step therapy override legislation (5.5 million)
- formulary transparency legislation (41 million)
- prior authorization limits legislation (21 million)

Action

Hosted a town hall meeting to discuss the need for reforms in step therapy insurance processes

Impact

Over 100 people attended virtually and agreed to support the Arthritis Foundation's step therapy model legislation



Challenge

Be the authoritative leader on arthritis with the federal government

Action

Directly engaged in legislative agenda items

Impact

- Patients Access to Treatment Act (PATA) was introduced in the House of Representatives in March (recruited 23 co-sponsors at the Advocacy Summit)
- Mailed more than 800 letters on 21st Century Cures, urging passage
- Held personal meetings, provided written comments, and participated in a press conference on 21st Century Cures, which has now passed the house.
- Secured support for DoD arthritis research through a letter signed by 29 representatives

Action

Chairing 2 federal coalitions: Coalition for Accessible Treatments (supports PATA) and CDC Arthritis Program coalition

- Preserved funding for the CDC Arthritis Program

Impact

- 88 co-sponsors of PATA this year
- Developed relationships with key committee staff and members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, HELP Committee and Appropriations Committee
- Led sign-on letters on PATA inclusion in 21st Century Cures and full funding for CDC Arthritis Program

Challenge

Grow our grassroots network by 20% and increase their engagement

Action

- Biweekly Advocacy in Action newsletter distributed to more than 122,000 Advocates (exceeded growth goal by June)
- Enhance Ambassador program

Impact

- Increased our Advocates pool by 80% in the first 8 months of 2015
- Increased the number of Ambassadors by 21% to 950
- Engaged Advocates in mailing more than 3,500 letters of support to Capitol Hill

Challenge

Increase grassroots engagement

Action

Created grassroots and legislative strategy to increase the membership and activity of the Arthritis Caucus

Impact

- Created Friends of Arthritis Caucus coalition
- Added 32 new members to Caucus this year
- Hosted 3 briefings on access to care, with 2 more planned
- Caucus co-chairs led CDC appropriations letter on our behalf