

# Arthritis Foundation

## Arthritis Ambassador Briefing

**Dial In:** 1-866-487-9460

**Conference Code:** # 931 709 2991

**Materials available for download at**

[http://www.arthritis.org/ambassador\\_assignment.php](http://www.arthritis.org/ambassador_assignment.php)

March 11, 2015  
3PM Eastern



[arthritis.org](http://arthritis.org)

# Agenda

- **Welcome**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **Federal Legislation and Caucus Update**  
*Anna Hyde, Director of Health Policy and Federal Affairs*
- **Welcome Back Congress Update**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **State Legislation Update**  
*Mark Guimond, Director of State Government Relations*
- **Advocacy Summit Activities**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **March Ambassador Activity**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **Ambassador Commitment Form**  
*Laura Keivel, Manager of Grassroots Advocacy*
- **Q&A**

# Thank you for being a part of the Ambassador program

## Reminder of Goals for 2015

- Sign up 16,000 new Advocates by the end of the year
- Grow the Congressional Arthritis Caucus to 126 members

# Federal Legislation and Caucus Update

**Anna Hyde**

Director, Health Policy and Federal  
Affairs

# Patients' Access to Treatment Act

- **Reintroduction is March 25<sup>th</sup>**
- Will be introduced by Rep. McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA)
- The Arthritis Foundation has a lead role in the press conference - CEO Ann Palmer will speak
- Ambassadors will be notified of the social media campaign to raise awareness
- Working with potential Senate sponsors



# Arthritis and the Military

- Specific Line item for arthritis research is an Advocacy Summit ask
- Background on issue
- There is no bill-this is at the discretion of members of Congress
- Staff to staff
- **What can you do?** Take action during the Virtual Summit and send letters through the website about the DOD research funding to your legislators

# Arthritis Caucus Update

- Caucus newsletter will now be sent to not just Caucus members, but to all Health Legislative Assistants!
- Focused on policy issues of concern to people with arthritis
- Great recruiting tool

# Welcome Back Congress Update

- 29 meetings
- Many legislators have expressed interest but none have committed
- **Keep up the follow up!**
- If you have not reported for January, please do so as soon as possible



# State Legislation Update

**Mark Guimond**

Director of State Legislative Affairs

# 2015 Action in the States

## Maryland



Mark Guimond, AF's Director of State Legislative Affairs testifying before the Maryland House of Delegates Health and Government Operations Committee on biosimilars.

# 2015 Action in the States

## Colorado



Arthritis Foundation Ambassador Anita Fricklas and Arthritis Foundation Advocate Mariah Zebrowski

# 2015 Action in the States

## Georgia



Ambassador Kerry Tucker speaks  
to the Georgia legislature

# 2015 Action in the States

## Oregon



Ambassador George Ross and  
Arthritis Foundation Staff Johanna  
Lindsay

# 2015 Action in the States

## Interactive Map!

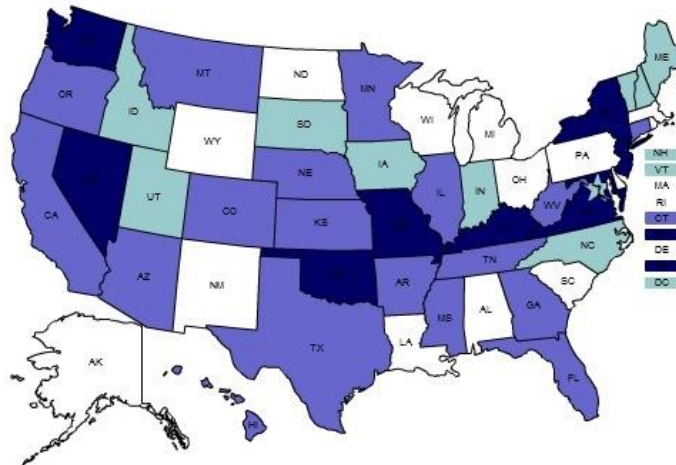


Bills identified by Arthritis Foundation staff. Legislative details provided by StateScope.

Number of Bills: 93



Click State for Report



AR 2	AZ 2	CA 2	CO 2	CT 3	DC 1	FL 2	GA 2	HI 3	IA 1
ID 1	IL 3	IN 1	KS 2	KY 4	MD 4	ME 1	MN 2	MO 4	MS 2
MT 2	NC 1	NE 2	NH 1	NJ 7	NV 4	NY 8	OK 4	OR 2	SD 1
TN 2	TX 2	UT 1	VA 4	VT 1	WA 5	WV 2			

# Advocacy Summit

**Over 350 attendees**

**Activities include a Kids' Summit, advocacy trainings, exhibits, and an awards dinner**

**A special advocate toolkit will be available online to all advocates after the Summit**

# Virtual Summit

**Participate online using social media!**

**#AdvocateforArthritis**

**Read blogs, follow updates, and take  
action!**



# March Ambassador Activity

**We are making a major push for letters to deliver to Congress during the Advocacy Summit**

**Use the template on the Ambassador Activity webpage to write your own letter and have 2 friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc. write letters too!**

We will modify the letters to go to all of your legislators and modify if they are in the Caucus

# March Ambassador Activity

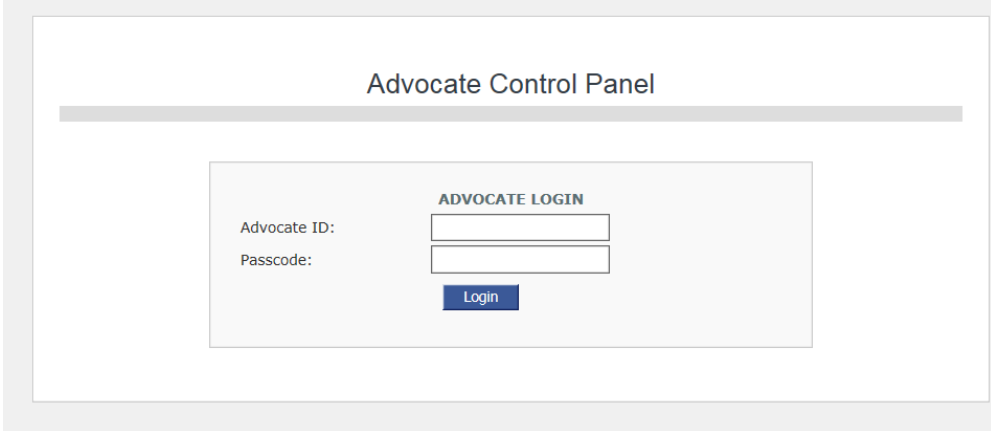
**Complete by March 18<sup>th</sup>**

**You only need to report:**

- **Who sent the letters (including yourself)**
- **To get full credit for the activity, you must send a letter as well as two other people that you recruit.**

# Reporting Center

- It's important to log your activity
- We don't know what's happening unless you report in!



The image shows a screenshot of a web interface titled "Advocate Control Panel". Below the title is a horizontal line. In the center, there is a light gray box containing the "ADVOCATE LOGIN" form. The form has two input fields: "Advocate ID:" and "Passcode:". Below these fields is a blue "Login" button.

# Activity Resources

- Visit the Ambassador webpage and Virtual Summit webpage for a draft letter
- We will change the language if your legislators are already on the Caucus and find your legislators so your member of Congress and Senators will receive the letters

Insert Your Picture Here!

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

I urge you as my representative to join the bicameral, bipartisan Arthritis Caucus. The Caucus is designed to inform Members of Congress and their staff about ways to prevent, control and eventually cure arthritis.

Arthritis is our nation's leading cause of disability. Two major types of arthritis alone – osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis – cost the U.S. economy more than \$156 billion annually in lost wages and medical expenses. More than 50 million Americans have arthritis now, and that number is expected to climb to 67 million in just 15 years.

Today, arthritis advocates are visiting Capitol Hill as part of the Arthritis Foundation's Advocacy Summit, an annual event where people living with and affected by arthritis come from every corner of the United States to Washington, DC. Though I am not able to join them in person **[additional personalization here – 2 sentences maximum]**, I want my voice to echo theirs, and I hope you will lend your support to this important cause.

The Bicameral Congressional Arthritis Caucus, chaired by Representative Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) and Representative David B. McKinley (R-WV), serves as an arthritis information clearinghouse and is a bipartisan forum working on legislative solutions for the challenges people with arthritis face. Raising

# Reporting Center

Please report your activity in the reporting center when you complete the activity

[www.arthritis.org/report](http://www.arthritis.org/report)

**We need full participation in this activity to ensure success!**

# Ambassador Commitment Form

The Ambassador Commitment form is a yearly document to confirm your participation in the Ambassador program

**The form will be available soon and the deadline will be adjusted accordingly. You MUST sign the form to remain in the Ambassador program.**

# 2015 Ambassador Briefing Dates

Wednesday, April 15

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, May 6

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, July 8

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, September 9

3:00 PM Eastern

Wednesday, November 11

3:00 PM Eastern

# Questions?

Contact Laura Keivel

Manager of Grassroots Advocacy

[lkeivel@arthritis.org](mailto:lkeivel@arthritis.org)

202-887-2913



# Thank You!

We appreciate all of your support and dedication!

The next Ambassador call is

**April 15, 2015**

**3:00 PM Eastern**