



**The Arthritis Foundation
Welcomes the 115th Congress**

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arthritis.org/Advocate



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague,

As the 115th Congress begins, we're writing to invite you to become a member of the bipartisan Congressional Arthritis Caucus.

Arthritis includes over 100 different diseases and conditions that affect joints and joint tissue; it is chronic and can be complex to treat; and it can have a devastating impact on a person's quality of life. Further, it affects one in five Americans, and one in three veterans has doctor-diagnosed arthritis. With nearly 150 bipartisan, bicameral members, the Arthritis Caucus works to heighten awareness about the effects of this debilitating disease on children and adults, as well as the impacts it has on our economy.

Here are three important statistics:

- Arthritis is the **leading cause of disability** in the United States.
- More than 50 million Americans battle some form of arthritis every day, including 300,000 children, and it **limits the daily activities of nearly 23 million Americans**.
- According to the Arthritis Foundation, **osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis alone cost more than \$156 billion a year** in direct and indirect health expenses.

Arthritis resulted in an estimated 6.7 million hospitalizations in 2011, more than 100 million outpatient visits in 2010, and it is the number one diagnosis for hip and knee replacement, one of the fastest growing Medicare procedures. And the problem is growing: by the year 2040, more than 78 million Americans are expected to have arthritis. The problem is further complicated by the fact that almost half of people with arthritis have a comorbid condition, such as heart disease and diabetes.

The mission of the Congressional Arthritis Caucus is to serve as a clearinghouse for information on arthritis and a bipartisan forum to find solutions to help people with arthritis. It hosts educational events such as briefings and receptions, provides opportunities to connect members with their constituents suffering from arthritis, and it is supported by the Friends of the Arthritis Caucus, a coalition of more than a dozen patient and provider groups.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Arthritis Caucus. If you'd like more information or your member would like to join, please contact Rachel Fybel in the office of Representative Anna Eshoo or Margie Almanza in the office of Representative David McKinley.

Sincerely,


Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress

Congressional Arthritis Caucus Members

House

Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Co-chair
David McKinley (R-WV), Co-chair
Don Young (R-AK)
Mo Brooks (R-AL)
Trent Franks (R-AZ)
Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)
Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)
Julia Brownley (D-CA)
Tony Cardenas (D-CA)
Susan Davis (D-CA)
Jared Huffman (D-CA)
Darrell Issa (R-CA)
Zoe Lofgren (D-CA)
Doris Matsui (D-CA)
Jerry McNerney (D-CA)
Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA)
Raul Ruiz (D-CA)
Linda Sanchez (D-CA)
Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Brad Sherman (D-CA)
Eric Swalwell (D-CA)
Norma Torres (D-CA)
Maxine Waters (D-CA)
Mike Coffman (R-CO)
Joe Courtney (D-CT)
Elizabeth Esty (D-CT)
John Larson (D-CT)
Gus Bilirakis (R-FL)
Alcee Hastings (D-FL)
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)
Dennis Ross (R-FL)
Ted Yoho (R-FL)
Frederica Wilson (D-FL)
Buddy Carter (R-GA)
Hank Johnson (D-GA)
Steve King (R-IA)
David Loebsack (D-IA)
David Young (R-IA)
Cheri Bustos (D-IL)
Danny Davis (D-IL)
Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
Larry Bucshon (R-IN)
Luke Messer (R-IN)
Mike Pompeo (R-KS)
Kevin Yoder (R-KS)
Andy Barr (R-KY)

Brett Guthrie (R-KY)
Hal Rogers (R-KY)
John Yarmuth (D-KY)
Michael Capuano (D-MA)
Bill Keating (D-MA)
Joe Kennedy (D-MA)
Stephen Lynch (D-MA)
Brenda Lawrence (D-MI)
Collin Peterson (D-MN)
Tim Walz (D-MN)
Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO)
Ryan Zinke (R-MT)
Patrick McHenry (R-NC)
David Price (D-NC)
Ann McLane Kuster (D-NH)
Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)
Leonard Lance (R-NJ)
Tom MacArthur (R-NJ)
Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
Donald Payne (D-NJ)
Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
Eliot Engel (D-NY)
Peter King (R-NY)
Nita Lowey (D-NY)
Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY)
Gregory Meeks (D-NY)
Jose Serrano (D-NY)
Lee Zeldin (R-NY)
Joyce Beatty (D-OH)
Steve Chabot (R-OH)
David Joyce (R-OH)
Tim Ryan (D-OH)
Steve Stivers (R-OH)
Brad Wenstrup (R-OH)
Jim Bridenstine (R-OK)
Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR)
Peter DeFazio (D-OR)
Greg Walden (R-OR)
Robert Brady (D-PA)
Mike Doyle (D-PA)
Tom Marino (R-PA)
Patrick Meehan (R-PA)
Tim Murphy (R-PA)
Jim Langevin (D-RI)
Joe Wilson (R-SC)
Kristi Noem (R-SD)

Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)
Jim Cooper (D-TN)
John J. Duncan, JR. (R-TN)
Michael Burgess (R-TX)
Mike Conaway (R-TX)
Lloyd Doggett (D-TX)
Gene Green (D-TX)
Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX)
Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX)
Kenny Marchant (R-TX)
Filemon Vela (D-TX)
Rob Bishop (R-UT)
Chris Stewart (R-UT)
Donald Beyer (D-VA)
Gerry Connolly (D-VA)
Bob Goodlatte (R-VA)
Stacey Plaskett (D-VI)
Suzan DelBene (D-WA)
Jaime Hererra Beutler (R-WA)
Derek Kilmer (D-WA)
Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
Dave Reichert (R-WA)
Adam Smith (D-WA)
Ron Kind (D-WI)
Mark Pocan (D-WI)
Alex Mooney (R-WV)

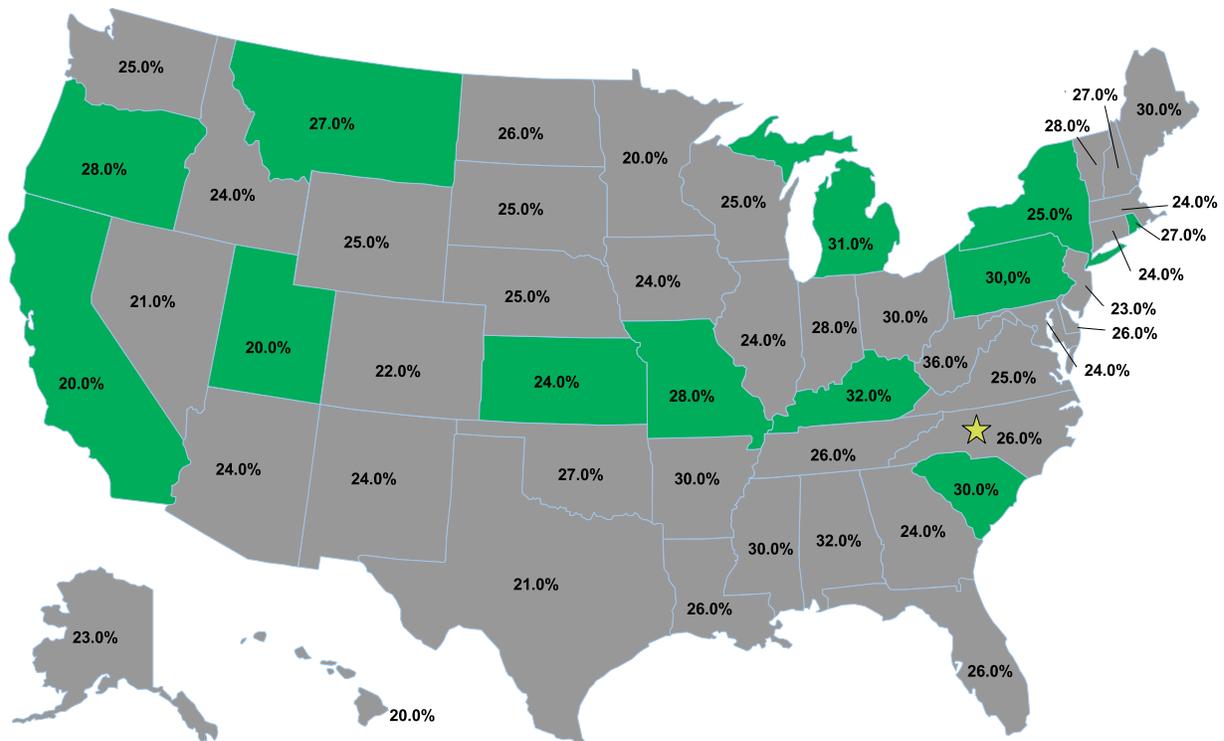
Senate

Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)
Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Tom Carper (D-DE)
Chris Coons (D-DE)
James Risch (R-ID)
Joe Donnelly (D-IN)
Todd Young (R-IN)
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Angus King (I-ME)
Jon Tester (D-MT)
Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND)
Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
John Thune (R-SD)
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)
Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)

Arthritis is a serious disease that affects millions of people of all ages, races and ethnic groups – and it's growing.

More than 50 million adults (22.7 percent of all adults) and an estimated 300,000 children in the U.S. are living with arthritis. By 2040, the number of adults in the U.S. with doctor-diagnosed arthritis is projected to increase 49 percent to more than 78 million (25.9 percent of all adults). At least 20 percent of the population in all 50 states has arthritis and only 13 states are receiving funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Arthritis Prevalence in the United States



KEY



CDC-Funded State



CDC Research State

What You Can Do to Help People With Arthritis

Ensure Access to Care in Health Reform Replacement Legislation

People with chronic conditions like arthritis depend on regular, ongoing access to health care and prescription drugs to manage their disease. It is critical to retain the elimination of pre-existing conditions, maintain the provision that eliminates lifetime caps and provides caps on annual spending, and continue allowing children to remain on their parents' insurance plans until they are 26 years old.

Congress should ensure that timely, continuous and affordable access to health coverage for people with chronic diseases is a priority in any health reform replacement legislation considered by the 115th Congress.

Address the Nationwide Shortage of Pediatric Rheumatologists

An estimated 300,000 children have arthritis, yet there are fewer than 350 practicing pediatric rheumatologists in the U.S., mainly clustered in big cities. This means only a quarter of children with arthritis have access to a pediatric rheumatologist, the type of specialist best suited to treat their disease.

The Ensuring Children's Access to Specialty Care Act will help correct this imbalance by making pediatric subspecialists who agree to practice in underserved areas eligible for the National Health Service Corps loan repayment program.

Help U.S. Military Active Duty Personnel and Veterans With Arthritis by Establishing a \$20 Million Dedicated Arthritis Research Program at the Department of Defense

One in three veterans has doctor-diagnosed arthritis (compared to one in five in the civilian population), and it is the second leading cause of medical discharge from the U.S. Army. The physical demands of military service, in addition to increased risk of arthritis from combat injury, greatly increase the number of service members and veterans who live with this disease.

A dedicated fund at the Department of Defense (DoD) will ensure a committed investment in arthritis research and accelerate the robust research already underway through the DoD. This research is not being done anywhere else and will benefit service members, veterans and everyone living with arthritis. By keeping service members on active duty and helping veterans remain active, we will potentially save millions of dollars in DoD and Department of Veterans Affairs health care and disability costs.

Increase Funding for the CDC Arthritis Program

This is the only federal program dedicated solely to helping people with arthritis. Though the disease affects more than 50 million Americans, including an estimated 300,000 children, and is the nation's leading cause of disability, it only has enough funds to operate in 12 states (see map on page 3). These state programs connect people with arthritis to evidence-based, self-management programs that are crucial to controlling the disease.

Congress should increase funding by \$5 million in fiscal year 2018, bringing the total to \$16 million while allowing the program to operate in two additional states and fund more research.

Join the Congressional Arthritis Caucus

Chaired by Reps. Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) and David B. McKinley (R-WV), the Congressional Arthritis Caucus (CAC) is a clearinghouse for information and a bipartisan forum to educate members about arthritis, how it impacts their communities and how to support federal and local efforts to improve access to care.



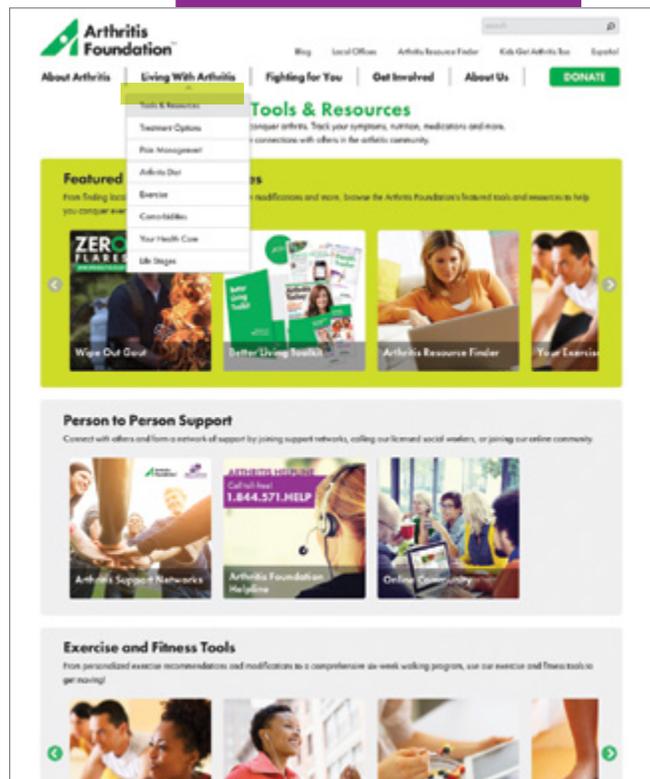
How the Arthritis Foundation Can Help YOU

Whether it's in the thousands or millions, many of your constituents have arthritis. The Arthritis Foundation wants to help you connect with them.

Our goal is to help people with arthritis live life to its fullest – easing their pain and illuminating a path toward wellness. That's why we offer the following tools and resources:

Visit [arthritis.org/tools](https://www.arthritis.org/tools) and start saying YES to MORE.

MORE information is located on our site under *Living With Arthritis, Tools & Resources*





Arthritis Resource Finder

Entering a ZIP code brings up a list of essential arthritis-related resources in the selected community, from physicians and physical therapists to medical equipment suppliers and home health agencies.

ArthritisResourceFinder.org



Your Exercise Solution® (YES)

This tool allows users to create a customized exercise plan, matching various activities to their interests and level of fitness. The descriptions even include movement modifications to accommodate specific joint concerns.

YourExerciseSolution.org

Now I have more confidence staying active!

I have severe OA in my knee, and thought I would have to give up golf. **Your Exercise Solution** gave me specific tips about my swing and type of shoe to wear.

Better Living Toolkit

This powerful package of information and resources helps people better understand and manage their type of arthritis so they can live life to its fullest.



BetterLivingToolkit.org

Person to Person Support

The Arthritis Helpline is staffed by licensed clinical social workers who provide callers with 24/7 assistance on a variety of topics, such as access to care and financial assistance.



Call toll-free at **1-844-571-HELP (4357)**

Nationwide there are local Arthritis Foundation events you can attend to connect with your constituents, from the Walk to Cure Arthritis in the spring to the Jingle Bell Run in the winter and juvenile arthritis family days and camps in the summer. Visit arthritis.org to find out more about events that may be planned in your area.



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