

# Arthritis Foundation 2016 Advocacy Report Card

January–June 2016

**We're the Champion of Yes. See some of our achievements as we work every day to remove barriers to treatment for people with arthritis**



## Challenge

**Be the authoritative leader on arthritis with state governments.**

## Action

Actively engaged in 124 bills in 31 states, achieving victories on step therapy limits and biosimilar substitution legislation in 2016.

## Impact

- Passed biosimilar legislation impacting the lives of more than 4.5 million patients in five states (Arizona, Idaho, Kentucky, Missouri and Oregon), ensuring affordability, protecting the patient-provider relationship and creating more transparency in state insurance plans.
- Passed step therapy legislation impacting the lives of more than 3.1 million patients in three states (Indiana, Missouri and West Virginia), providing limitations on step therapy/fail first protocols, ensuring that patients receive the medications deemed appropriate by their provider.
- Passed prior authorization legislation impacting the lives of more than 2.8 million patients in two states (New Hampshire and Ohio), standardizing prior authorization protocols and streamlining access to vital medications and treatments.

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## Action

Held nine State Capitol Days with Arthritis Foundation Advocates.

## Impact

Touched more than 1,500 state legislators and affected legislative outcomes through Advocate visits and testimony in 20 states.

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## Action

Currently chair two state coalitions to advance arthritis-related legislation: State Access to Innovative Medicines (SAIM) and Medication Stability Coalition.

## Impact

Passed legislation positively impacting more than 77.5 million patients represented by these coalitions.

Enacted legislation includes:

- formulary transparency legislation
- prior authorization limits legislation
- copay cap legislation
- step therapy override legislation

## Arthritis Foundation 2016 Advocacy Report Card

### Challenge

**Be the authoritative leader on arthritis with the federal government.**

### Action

Directly engaged in legislation that affects access to care for people with arthritis.

### Impact

- Helped increase the number of co-sponsors on HR 1859, the Ensuring Children's Access to Specialty Care Act, to 63, including at least 19 from the Advocacy Summit.
- Ensuring Children's Access to Specialty Care Act was introduced in the Senate as S. 2782; a husband and wife Arthritis Foundation Ambassador team from Rhode Island secured Sen. Jack Reed (RI) as the Democratic lead.
- Arthritis Foundation leadership in opposing Medicare Part B proposal resulted in:
  - ▼ More than 1,800 letters from Foundation Advocates being sent to Congress, asking them to sign a letter opposing the proposal (more than 240 representatives signed the letter).
  - ▼ A letter authored by the Foundation and supported by more than 24 patient and provider groups being sent to the Hill, garnering recognition of the Foundation at a congressional hearing.
  - ▼ President and CEO Ann Palmer co-authored an op-ed with the American College of Rheumatology asking Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to withdraw the proposal.

### Action

Engaged with Congress to raise awareness about arthritis in the military.

### Impact

- Held a Capitol Hill briefing on arthritis in the U.S. Military, attended by more than 50 people.
- Lobbied support for a Department of Defense (DoD) dedicated arthritis research fund through a letter signed by 45 members of Congress, many as a direct result of the Advocacy Summit.
- Published an issue brief, "A Silent Enemy: How Arthritis Is Threatening Veterans and the U.S. Military," which provides detailed information, analysis and data supporting the need and value of dedicated DoD arthritis research funding.

### Challenge

**Increase grassroots engagement.**

### Action

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

### Impact

- Added 12 new Congressional Arthritis Caucus members.
- Hosted Congressional Arthritis Caucus reception with more than 40 congressional offices represented.

### Challenge

**Grow our grassroots network by 10 percent and increase their engagement.**

### Action

- Biweekly Advocacy in Action newsletter distributed to more than 132,000 Advocates.
- Enhanced Ambassador program with special speakers on bimonthly webinars and easy-to-complete assignments.
- Hosted five briefings as part of the Advocate Webinar Series with subjects including clinical trials, advocating from anywhere, tools for better living and insurance appeals.
- Honored 28 Platinum Ambassadors at the 2016 Advocacy Summit.

### Impact

- Increased the number of Ambassadors by 21 percent to 1,110.
- Engaged Advocates in mailing more than 4,500 letters of support to Capitol Hill in the first five months of 2016.

### Action

Created opportunities for Advocates to engage with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

### Impact

- Nominated an Arthritis Foundation Ambassador to serve on the FDA arthritis advisory committee; she began her term in December.
- Secured a spot for an Arthritis Foundation Ambassador to testify before the FDA Arthritis Advisory Committee on the need for patient safety to be the highest priority as the FDA considers enactment of biosimilars.

### Action

Created opportunities for Advocates to engage in state legislation.

### Impact

Hundreds of Advocate letters were sent to legislators supporting enactment of 17 bills that will remove barriers to care.