

Arthritis Foundation 2016 Advocacy Report Card

October 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.

arthritis.org



Challenge

Be the authoritative leader on arthritis with state governments.

Action

Actively engaged in 126 bills in 31 states, achieving victories on step therapy limits, prior authorization and biosimilar substitution legislation in 2016.

Impact

- Passed biosimilar legislation impacting more than 7.4 million patients in eight states (AZ, HI, ID, KY, MO, OR, PA and RI), ensuring access and protecting the patient provider relationship.
- Passed step therapy legislation impacting more than 5 million patients in three states (IL, IA, and MO), providing limitations on step therapy/fail first protocols and 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 (NH and OH), standardizing prior authorization protocols and streamlining access to vital medications and treatments.

Action

Held State Capitol Days in 11 states with Arthritis Foundation Advocates.

Impact

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

Action

Chair 2 state coalitions to advance arthritis-related legislation: State Access to Innovative Medicines (SAIM) and Medication Stability Coalition.

Impact

Passed legislation increasing access to medications positively impacting more than 77.5 million patients represented by these coalitions.

Enacted legislation includes:

- Formulary Transparency
- Prior Authorization Limits
- Network Adequacy Updates
- Step Therapy Override

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

- Increased the number of co-sponsors on HR 1859, the Ensuring Children’s Access to Specialty Care Act, to 71, 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 Ambassador team from RI secured Sen. Jack Reed (RI) as the Democratic lead.
- Secured letter from Congress to Government Accountability Office to study the health and economic impact of OA in the U.S.
- Engaged with the Institute of Clinical and Economic Review (ICER) to ensure the patient perspective was included in review of RA drugs.
- The Arthritis Foundation provided leadership for the patient community in opposing the Medicare Part B proposal.

Action

Engaged with Congress to raise awareness about arthritis in the U.S. Military.

Impact

- Educated more than 50 Congressional offices and veterans organizations about arthritis in the U.S. Military at a Capitol Hill briefing.
- 45 members of Congress signed a letter in support of a dedicated arthritis research program at the Department of Defense, many as a direct result of the Advocacy Summit
- Raised awareness about the impact of arthritis in the U.S. Military by publishing “A Silent Enemy: How Arthritis is Threatening Veterans and the U.S. Military

Challenge

Increase grassroots engagement.

Action

Created grassroots legislative strategy to increase membership in the Congressional Arthritis Caucus (CAC).

Impact

- Added 14 new CAC members.
- Hosted CAC reception with more than 40 congressional offices in attendance.

Action

Increased Advocate engagement in federal and state policy.

Impact

- Published Advocacy in Action newsletter biweekly and distributed to more than 132,000 Advocates.
- Enhanced Ambassador program with special speakers on bimonthly webinars and easy-to-complete assignments.
- Hosted 5 Advocate Webinar Series briefings on clinical trials, advocating from anywhere, tools for better living and insurance appeals.
- Honored 28 Platinum Ambassadors at the 2016 Advocacy Summit.
- Trained hundreds of parents and children on how to get involved in advocacy and tell their story at the annual JA Conferences and in local trainings in over a dozen states.
- Increased the number of Ambassadors by 25 percent to 1,187.
- Engaged Advocates in mailing more than 4,500 letters in support of Arthritis Foundation legislative agenda to Capitol Hill in the first five months of 2016.
- Advocates took part in more than 50 meetings with their members of Congress during August Recess resulting in 4 new co-sponsors to H.R. 1859 and S.2782.

Action

Increased visibility for the advocacy program at nationwide events.

Impact

- Presented at the Coalition of State Rheumatology Organization’s annual meeting on how the Arthritis Foundation and our patients can help health care providers in their advocacy.
- Presented at the National Organization of Rheumatology Mangers conference on teaching office managers how to advocate for patients.
- Presented at Arthritis Introspective’s National Gathering Conference on how their attendees can expand their advocacy work.

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 approval of biosimilars.