

# Arthritis Foundation Advocacy Report Card

November 2015

**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 159 bills in 46 states, achieve victories on co-pay legislation, formulary transparency, prior authorization limits, step therapy and biosimilar legislation

### Impact

Passed legislation in 28 states impacting the lives of more than 106 million people protecting the patient-provider relationship, improving access to medications and transparency in state insurance plans

### Action

Held 12 State Capitol Days where Arthritis Foundation volunteers stormed the state houses

### Impact

Touched over 1,500 state legislators and impacted 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)
- physician step therapy override legislation (5.5 million)
- formulary transparency legislation (41 million)
- prior authorization limits legislation (21 million)
- biosimilars legislation (24 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 and 95 co-sponsors overall)
- Mailed more than 800 letters on 21st Century Cures, urging passage
- Held personal meetings, provided written comments, and participated in a press conference on 21 Century Cures, which has now passed the house.
- Secured support for DoD arthritis research through a letter signed by 29 representatives
- Successfully recruited 136 Members of Congress to join the Arthritis Caucus

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#### Action

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

- Preserved funding for the CDC Arthritis Program

#### Impact

- 95 co-sponsors of PATA this year
- 31 co-sponsors to H.R. 1859 to address nationwide shortages of pediatric rheumatologists
- 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 125,000 Advocates
- Enhance Ambassador program

#### Impact

- Increased our Advocates pool by 80% in the first 8 months of 2015
- Increased our Advocates number to 125,000 and provided enhanced training opportunities
- Increased the number of Ambassadors to 950
- Ambassadors participated in more than 40 visits to their members of Congress during August Recess
- Engaged Advocates in mailing more than 4,000 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 73 new members to Caucus this year
- Hosted 3 briefings on access to care
- Caucus co-chairs led CDC appropriations letter on our behalf