

Support Legislation to Address Excessive Cost-Sharing of Specialty Tier Medications

House Request: Please Co-Sponsor H.R. 460, the *Patients' Access to Treatments Act of 2013 (PATA)*

Senate Request: Please become a lead sponsor of the *Patients' Access to Treatments Act (PATA) of 2013*

- H.R. 460, the *Patients' Access to Treatments Act of 2013 (PATA)*, is bi-partisan legislation introduced by Reps. McKinley (R-WV) and Capps (D-CA) to help eliminate "specialty tiers" in commercial health insurance plans, which can cost patients hundreds of dollars per month for a single medication.
- Help improve access to medications, which can prevent disability and death.
- Individuals unable to afford specialty tier medications are likely to go without crucial medications, resulting in disability and other future health complications that can lead to increased health care costs that affect our entire health care system.
- Twenty national organizations endorse the *Patients' Access to Treatments Act*.

Support Access to Pediatric Rheumatologists

Support \$5 million for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program

- There are 300,000 children, or nearly 1 in 250, who have a form of juvenile arthritis (JA), in the United States.
- There are currently less than 250 practicing, board-certified pediatric rheumatologists in the United States.
- There are currently 11 states without a single board-certified, practicing pediatric rheumatologist and 7 with just one.
- A delay in diagnosis and treatment for children with JA can lead to permanent disability and deformity.
- Please support funding for the Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to help alleviate the shortage and poor distribution of practicing pediatric rheumatologists.

Support Research for a Cure

Include "post traumatic osteoarthritis" and "rheumatoid arthritis" research at the **Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)** at the Department of Defense (DoD)

- Supporting DoD research will help reduce the arthritis burden on our Nation's warfighters, veterans and civilians.
- Post-traumatic osteoarthritis caused by battlefield injuries is now the primary source of disability for warriors.
- Veterans have twice the rate of osteoarthritis (OA) as their civilian counterparts.
- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) strikes at the peak of one's career (mid-late thirties/forties) and often leads to early retirement and disability.



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