

## Issue Brief: Why Join the Bicameral Congressional Arthritis Caucus?

- **Because arthritis is our nation's leading cause of disability**, resulting in an annual \$128 billion price tag from direct (medical) and indirect (lost earnings) costs.
- **Because 50 million Americans have arthritis**, and that number is expected to climb to 67 million within 20 years. Each day:
  - 27 million Americans fight and are limited by osteoarthritis
  - 1.3 million battle rheumatoid arthritis
  - 300,000 children struggle with juvenile arthritis
- **Because, according to the CDC, 1 in 20 working age adults have to change jobs**, stop working entirely, or reduce the hours they work due to arthritis.
- **Because arthritis pain is a barrier to the treatment of other chronic diseases**. 52% of adults with diabetes also have arthritis. Among this population, 29.8% report physical inactivity compared to 21% of those with diabetes alone.
- **Because a rheumatoid arthritis diagnosis doubles your risk of heart disease and diabetes.**
- **Because the impact of arthritis is worse on racial and ethnic minority groups**. 44.6% of Non-Hispanic Blacks and 43.2% of Hispanics with arthritis report activity limitation.
- **Because nearly 80 of your Congressional colleagues have joined** the Congressional Arthritis Caucus and are committed to raising awareness about arthritis.
- **Because ignoring the pain, cost, and disability associated with arthritis is simply unacceptable and together we can fight to end arthritis.**

*The mission of the Bicameral Congressional Arthritis Caucus, chaired by Representatives Anna G. Eshoo (D-CA) and Congressman David B. McKinley (R-WV), is to serve as a clearinghouse for information on arthritis and a bipartisan forum to aid Members of Congress in working together to address arthritis. The Caucus will strive to raise awareness about arthritis and work toward the goal of educating all Members about how arthritis impacts their communities and how to help support federal and local efforts addressing arthritis in all its forms. For more information about this group or to join, please contact the offices of Representative Eshoo and McKinley.*

*Learn about the impact of arthritis on your state by visiting:*  
[http://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/data\\_statistics.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/arthritis/data_statistics.htm)



**National Public Policy and Advocacy Department**  
1615 L St., NW, Suite 320, Washington, DC 20036



For more information: [advocacy@arthritis.org](mailto:advocacy@arthritis.org) • [www.arthritis.org/advocacy](http://www.arthritis.org/advocacy) • 202-887-2913