

# 2022 Arthritis Foundation Advocacy Priorities



2022 will see the continuation of the 117th Congress, state legislative sessions across 46 states, and mid-term elections. Both our federal and state policy work will focus on priorities that matter the most to people living with arthritis, such as pain management, access to telemedicine, out-of-pocket costs, and funding for research. Advocates are the heart of advancing each of these priorities. Our 2022 priorities fall into four main buckets, detailed below.

## Ideal Model of Care

We are striving to improve continuity of care for people with arthritis by developing an Ideal Model of Care, informed by our patient insights on their biggest barriers. We will do this by:

- Collecting information from people living with arthritis through surveys and focus groups.
- Developing a set of Ideal Model of Care principles
- Planning for introducing the Model of Care to the 118th Congress and state legislatures in 2023.
- Building partnerships with stakeholders

## Federal Level

In 2021 we achieved our goal of reaching 75% of Congress through messages, meetings, and other touchpoints by Advocates. Our federal work in 2022 will build on this progress through a mixture of priorities, both familiar and new.

- Step therapy reform via the Safe Step Act
- Caps on Medicare drug costs
- Co-pay assistance protections
- Pain management access
- Arthritis research and program funding

## Grassroots

Advocates made huge strides in 2021, completing a record number of action alerts and legislative meetings throughout the year.

We will provide new opportunities to take action in 2022 by:

- Expanding our resources available to Advocates through the website and Volunteer Portal
- Strengthening State Advocacy Committees through ongoing training for recruitment and engagement
- Continuing to provide new opportunities for Advocates to learn and engage
- Hosting a virtual Platinum Ambassador Assembly to engage and honor our 2021 awardees

## State Level

We made huge progress on the state level in 2021, passing 18 bills to address key access and affordability issues. Our work this year will build on this momentum by:

- Engaging on step therapy reform, accumulator adjustment programs, and co-pay caps
- Beginning work on Arthritis Advisory Councils and other pain management solutions
- Including value assessment in legislation covering cost-effectiveness
- Establishing Arthritis Awareness Resolutions in multiple states to raise awareness among state legislatures