There are over **54 Million** American adults with doctor diagnosed arthritis in the U.S.

1 in 3 veterans has arthritis, which accounts for **15.4%** of the people in Alabama living with arthritis.

There are approximately **300,000 kids** with arthritis in the U.S. but only about **390 pediatric rheumatologists**. That’s about 700 kids for each doctor.

**Over 24 million Americans experience activity limitations due to their arthritis.**

- **708,000** adults in Alabama have activity limitations caused by arthritis
- Among all adults in Alabama with arthritis, **53.1%** have work limitations
- Arthritis in the U.S. has an economic burden of **$304 billion** – made up of medical expenses and lost wages

**Adults with arthritis often have one or more chronic conditions.**

- Mental Health: Anxiety and depression affect **1/3** of U.S. adults with arthritis 45 years of age or older
- Diabetes: **56.8%** of adults in AL with diabetes also have arthritis
- Heart Disease: **64%** of adults in AL with heart disease also have arthritis
- Obesity: **41.6%** of adults in AL who are obese also have arthritis

**You can make a difference by advocating for state and federal legislation that will help people with arthritis in Alabama. Legislative priorities for 2019 include:**

- **Biosimilars**: Ensure patients and providers are notified when an interchangeable biosimilar substitution is made
- **Workforce**: Legislation that addresses the pediatric rheumatology workforce shortage through federal loan repayment programs