



Live Yes!

Ambassador Briefing
February 2019



Welcome & Introductions



Julie Eller
Manager of Grassroots
Advocacy
jeller@arthritis.org

Stephanie Livingston
Consumer Health Specialist
slivingston@arthritis.org

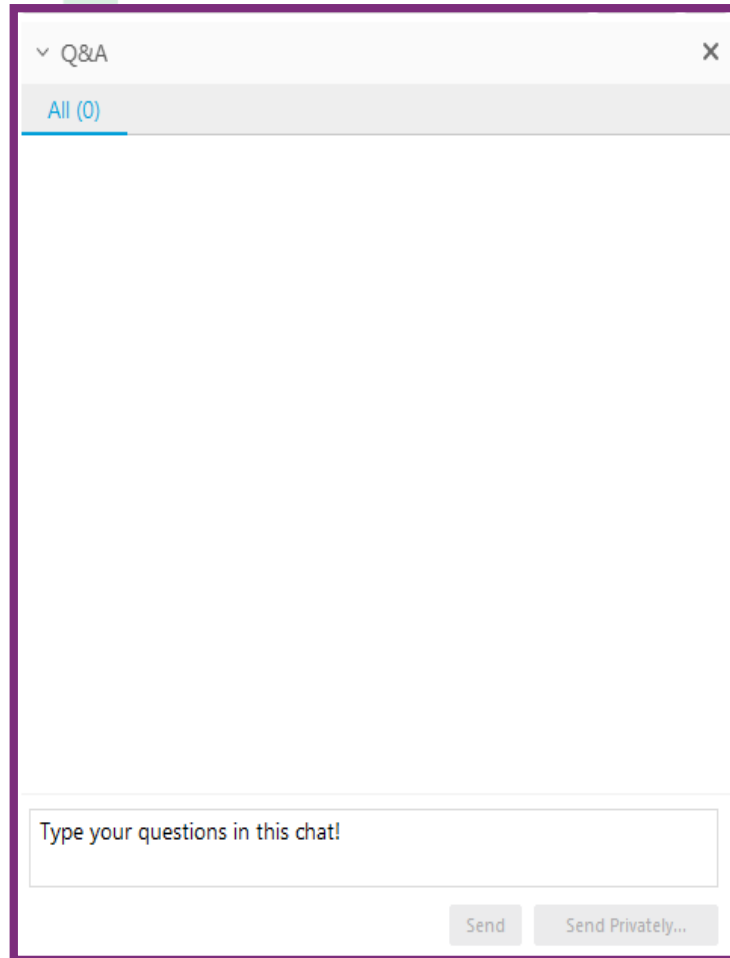
Michele Guadalupe
Director of Advocacy Alliance
Development
mguadalupe@arthritis.org

Vincent Pacileo
Director of Federal Affairs
vpacileo@arthritis.org

Questions



Live Yes!



**Throughout the Webinar,
please use the chat or Q&A
feature to send us your
questions**

**At the end of the webinar
we'll address them!**

Today's Call



Ambassador Updates



State & Federal Updates



Activities

Live Yes!

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Ambassador Updates

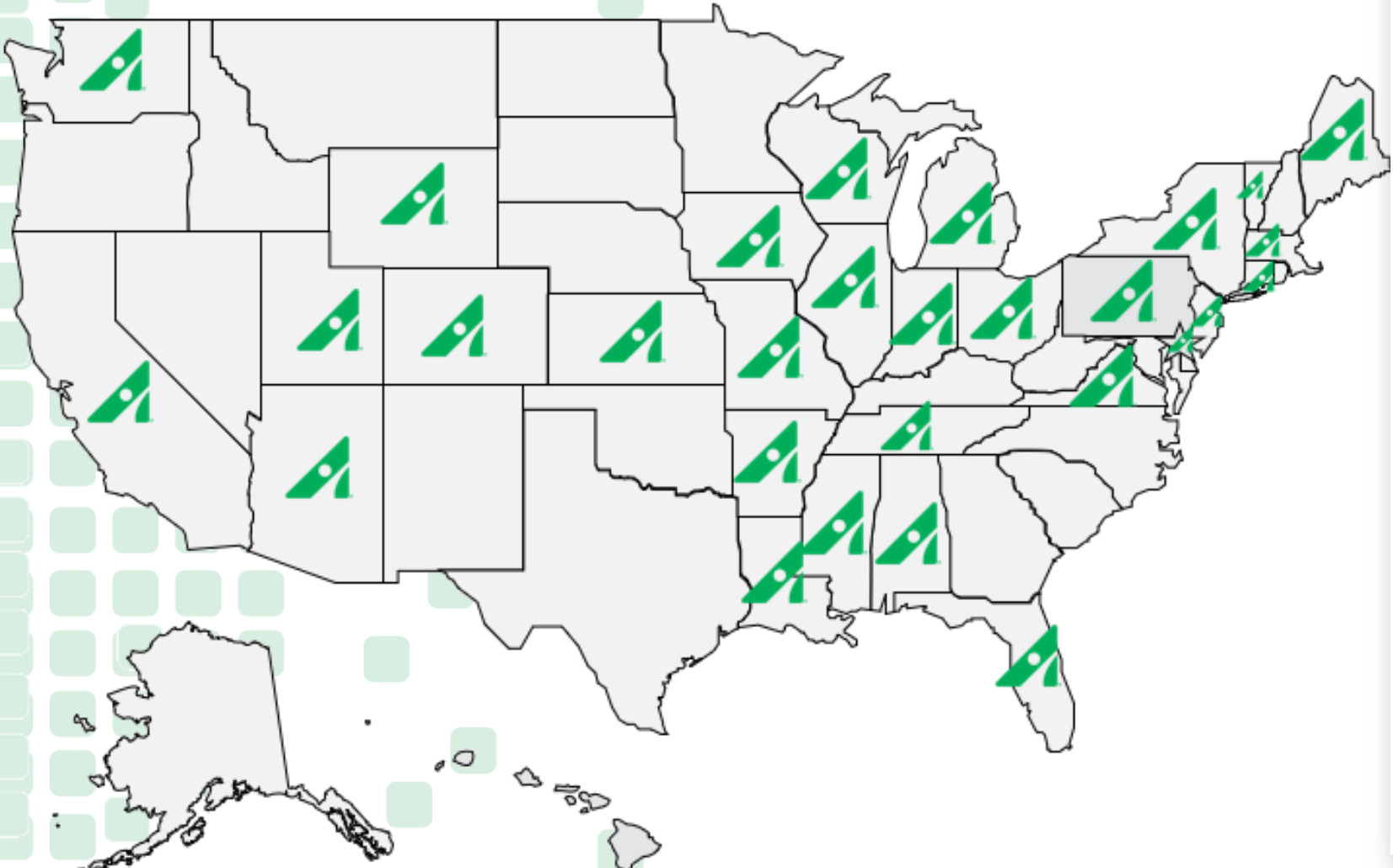
Congratulations to our 70 Platinum Ambassadors!



2018 Platinum Ambassadors

Live Yes!

to be recognized at the Advocacy Summit



Tuesday, January 29 | Arthritis Foundation

Connecting | More than Ever Before! Celebrating the Record Breaking 70 Platinum Ambassadors

A record number of individuals achieved the Arthritis Foundation's highest advocacy honor in 2018 and became Platinum Ambassadors. At the [2019 Advocacy Summit](#), March 11-12, in Washington, DC, participants will be able to connect with the 2018 cohort of 70 Platinum Ambassadors who will be recognized for their outstanding advocacy achievements on behalf of the arthritis community. Registration for the Advocacy Summit closes on February 4 – [register today!](#)

Platinum Ambassadors are an elite group of Advocates who go above and beyond the call of duty by accomplishing a challenging list of ten ambassador assignments along with four bonus activities, all while raising at minimum \$1,000 to support the Foundation's mission to conquer and cure arthritis. To learn more about becoming a Platinum Ambassador, [sign up for the Ambassador program.](#)

Our 2018 Platinum Ambassadors hail from across the United States. This year, our Platinum Ambassadors represent nearly 30 states and will be the voice of the legislative priorities important to people with arthritis. We are pleased to welcome Platinum Ambassadors from East to West, like Barrie Lynch from Maine to Gerica Coad from California. This diverse group of leaders are Empowered to Live Yes! and includes three mother-daughter Platinum Ambassador duos like Marsha Clark & Staci Penner from Kansas, Amy & Jessica Poff from Utah, and Cathy & Taylor Guerrant from Ohio. Excitingly, of our 70 Platinum Ambassadors, 18 of them represent their state as the chair of their state Advocacy Committee.

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'18 Platinum Ambassadors to be recognized at the Advocacy Summit

- Cindy Ducker
- Ronda Mack
- Lauren Aron
- Peter Fischer
- Gerica Coad
- Patrice Johnson
- Karen Anderson
- Jennifer Cox
- Monica Johnson
- Rebecca Gillett
- Rosann Winn
- Jessica Festa
- Mary Alice Landry
- Paula Haney
- Julianne Goodfellow

- Donna Cusack
- Jennifer Ross
- Andrea Abramowitz
- Heather Pruet
- Angie Brooker
- Jane Ridnour
- Cindy Copenhaver
- Katie Copenhaver
- Marsha Clark
- Staci Penner
- Maria Floyd
- Sammantha Dorazio
- Anna Legassie
- Kelby Peachey
- Barrie Lynch

- Kirsten Wilder
- Stephanie Kwiecien
- Janet O'Brien
- Angie Irvin
- Scott Rowbotham
- Wendy Rowbotham
- Christine Cicio
- Kathy Geller
- Susan Frost
- Tracy Augustine
- Amy McCormick
- April McCaslin
- Meredith Meyer
- Shannan Ohara Levi
- Kerry Wong

- Amy Barron
- Cathy Guerrant
- Carol Arbaczewski
- Taylor Guerrant
- Kerry Ferraro
- Jaime Jones
- Helen King
- Tory Aquino
- Lauren McAllister
- Keith Moschitta
- Sarah Cloud
- Chris Cloud
- Deborah McFarlane
- Amy Poff
- Jessica Poff

- Elizabeth Krempley
- Elizabeth Smith
- Kristin Joy Russo
- Heidi Barrett
- Courtney Bruce
- Laura Genoves
- Anna Sutton
- Deb Constien
- Deserae Constantineau
- Annmarie McMahill

Platinum Ambassador Requirements for 2019



10 Regular Ambassador Activities



Complete 4 Bonus Activities



Fundraise a minimum \$1,000 for the Arthritis Foundation

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Ambassador Updates

New Action Center Tools

HB 63

GA HB 63: Insurance; health benefit plans to establish step therapy protocols; require

2019-2020 Regular Session

A BILL to be entitled an Act to amend Georgia Annotated, relating to insurance plans to establish step therapy protocols; to provide for definitions; to

[Show More...](#)

Explanation

Category: State Bills

✓ We support this bill

Step therapy – also known as “fail first” requires patients to try lower-cost therapies before a doctor prescribed – even when doctor’s therapy is effective. When inappropriately used, step therapy can delay diagnosis of health care providers and put patients at risk. Patients must try multiple drugs before finding a drug that works is critical.

The real problems that step therapy causes by the Arthritis Foundation:

- Over 50% of all patients reported difficulty getting the one their doctor had recommended.
- Step therapy was stopped in 39% of cases, 20% of the time due to worsening symptoms.
- Nearly 25% of patients who switched to step therapy with their new carrier.
- Most respondents experienced negative health outcomes from not getting the right treatment.

There is a simple and straightforward way to support GA c

Profile



Representative Sharon Cooper
Republican-GA-043

Contact

Personal

Political

Staff

Bills

Capitol Address 436 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Capitol Phone (404) 656-5069

Capitol Fax (404) 656-0250

District Address 1234 Powers Ferry Rd SE Ste 104
Marietta, GA 30067

District Phone (770) 956-8357

District Fax (770) 956-9693

Email Address sharon.cooper@house.ga.gov

Web Site <http://www.house.ga.gov/Representatives/en-US/member.aspx?Member=86&Session=23>

Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/RepSharonCooper>

Close

TAKE ACTION

Close

EMPOWER
Live Your

ive Yes!

Arthritis
Foundation®

Live Yes!



Legislative Updates

The State and Federal Landscape

Legislative Updates

State Updates

- **State Legislative Days |**

- Georgia (Jan 23)
- Maine (Jan 29)
- Kansas (Feb 5)
- Virginia (Feb 6)

- **Upcoming State Legislative Days |**

- Washington (Feb 20)
- Oklahoma (Feb 27)
- Wisconsin (Mar 6)
- Colorado (Mar 13)
- Ohio (April 4),
- New York (May 14)
- California (May 20)



Legislative Updates

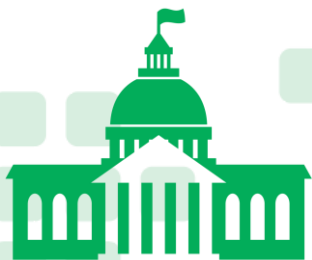
State Updates

- **Legislative Victories to Date** | Congratulations Ohio Advocates!!!!
- **Call outs for engagement** |
 - Testimony, Tweets, Action Center, Oh My!
- **Advocacy Committee Action Opportunities** |
 - Did you read your state update email?
 - Have you storybanked with us?



Legislative Updates

Federal Updates



Arthritis 101 Hill Briefing



Dedicated Research at the Department of Defense



Re-introducing Step Therapy Legislation

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Ambassador Updates

2019 Advocacy Summit Information



The Arthritis Foundation
Welcomes the 116th Congress

arthritis.org/advocate



Spotlight on Step Therapy

Step therapy, sometimes known as “fail first,” is a practice employed by many insurers that requires patients to try lower-cost therapies before being approved for the therapy their doctor prescribed – even when doctors are certain that the cheaper option won’t be effective. When inappropriately used, step therapy can undermine the clinical judgment of health care providers and put patients’ health at unnecessary risk. Many arthritis patients must try multiple drugs before finding one that works for them, so the ability to remain on a drug that works is critical.

A survey of more than 1,400 patients conducted in 2016 by the Arthritis Foundation revealed:

- Over 50% of all patients reported having to try two or more different drugs prior to getting the one their doctor had originally prescribed.
- Step therapy was stopped in 39% of cases because the drugs were ineffective, and 20% of the time due to worsening conditions.
- Nearly 25% of patients who switched insurance providers were required to repeat step therapy with their new carrier.
- A majority of respondents experienced negative health effects from delays in getting on the right treatment.

There is a simple and straightforward way to reform the step therapy process: Congress can pass the Restoring the Patient’s Voice Act. The legislation was first introduced in 2017 by Representatives Brad Wenstrup, DPM (R-OH) and Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA) who have both encountered step therapy in their own practice of medicine. The bill streamlines step therapy for patients with employer-sponsored insurance by:

- Establishing a clear exceptions process for step therapy review by health insurance plans;
- Establishing a reasonable and clear timeframe for override decisions; and
- Requiring insurers to consider the patient’s medical history, the provider’s expertise in partnership with their own patient, and respect the health care provider’s professional judgment – before a health plan can delay or outright deny a patient’s ability to access a medically necessary treatment.

In addition, the Medicare program recently changed its policies around step therapy. Last year, Medicare Advantage plans were given permission to begin utilizing step therapy protocols for Medicare Part B drugs, which are typically physician-administered drugs. Applying the robust guardrails in the Restoring the Patient’s Voice Act to the Medicare program would ensure these beneficiaries can similarly receive timely access to medications and treatments.



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Ambassador Activities

February 2019

Arthritis 101 Hill Briefing, Part 1



arthritis.org/advocacy

Arthritis 101 Capitol Hill Briefing

The Arthritis Foundation is pleased to host our biennial Arthritis 101 Capitol Hill Briefing again this year on February 13! Please use the sample message below to invite your members of Congress and their staff to join the event.

[Step One](#) | [Draft Your Letter](#)

Subject: Please Join the Arthritis 101 Briefing

Message Body:

My name is [name], I live in the great state of [home state], and I am an Arthritis Foundation Ambassador. One in three veterans and service members in the United States lives with arthritis, a serious, chronic and complex condition that affects one in four Americans in the general population. I want to invite you to a special lunch briefing to learn more about this cause that is so important to me.

Arthritis 101
Wednesday, February 13
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Rayburn 2075

This special lunch briefing will provide lawmakers and their staff with an overview of arthritis, the impact on arthritis on the military, and potential federal policy solutions.

Speakers include:

- Steve Smith, CDR U.S. Navy retired and Arthritis Foundation Advocate
- Colin Edgerton, M.D., rheumatologist, U.S. Army combat veteran, former Army physician
- Bill Goulet, U.S. Navy veteran and Arthritis Foundation Advocate from Kentucky
- Steve Sampson, D.O., osteopathic physician and clinical professor

Please RSVP by Wednesday, February 6 to Stephanie Livingston at slivingston@arthritis.org *Lunch will be available*

You can view the full invitation here: <http://bit.ly/Arthritis101Invite>. Thank you for all you do.

#AdvocateforArthritis



The Arthritis Foundation is pleased to host our biennial Arthritis 101 Capitol Hill Briefing again this year on February 13! Encourage your members of Congress and their staff to join this important event by sending them this personal invitation.



Tweet

Compose Your Message

- US Senators
- US Representative

Subject

You're Invited: Attend the Arthritis 101 Briefing

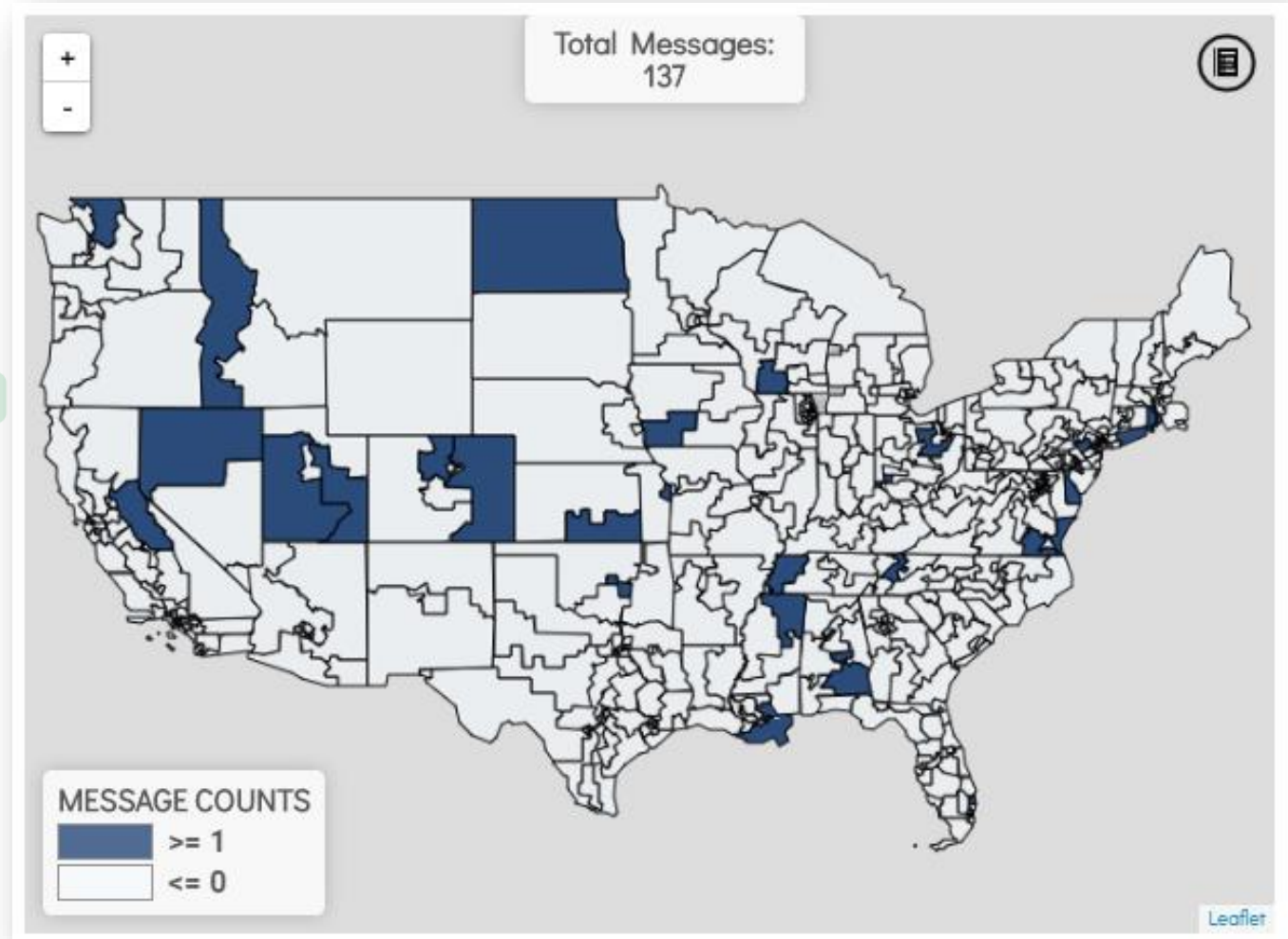
Message Body

Please add your own story about this issue to personalize your message

One in three veterans and service members in the United States lives with arthritis, a serious, chronic and complex condition that affects one in four Americans in the general population. I want to invite you to a special lunch briefing to learn more about this cause that is so important to me.

Arthritis 101 Hill Briefing, Metrics

- Thank you to all of you who took action and invited your friends and family to do the same.
- Many Ambassadors sent personal notes to Congress, then sent our quick action alert link to their communities.
- That secondary outreach resulted in 137 invitations to Congress, congratulations!



Arthritis 101 Hill Briefing, Results

16 Offices attended this year's event including:

- Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)
- Senator John Barrasso (R-WY)
- Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO)
- Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)
- Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)
- Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)
- Senator Bob Casey (D-PA)
- Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)
- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)
- Representative Kevin Hern (R-OK)
- Representative Andy Barr (R-KY)
- Representative Steve Chabot (R-OH)
- Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)
- Representative Jim Langevin (D-RI)
- Representative Ron Kind (D-WI)
- Representative Chellie Pingree (D-ME)

What can we do next to amplify our message?

- If you are a constituent of one of these offices, please follow up with a thank you!
- If no one was able to attend from your member of Congress's office, let's send them a thank you note any way, along with the important resources from the event.
- The Ambassador Guide for this outreach is available online now!

Arthritis 101 | Follow Up Assignment

Live Yes!



arthritis.org/advocacy

Arthritis 101 | Follow Up Assignment

On February 13th, the Arthritis Foundation hosted a briefing on Capitol Hill to educate congressional staff about priorities important to Americans with arthritis.

We need your help to follow up with your member of Congress and their staff to make sure they receive important information about dedicated research funding at the Department of Defense.

Step One | Understand the Problem – Prevalence of Arthritis in the Military

Arthritis is the number one cause of disability among our military veterans and is the second leading cause of medical discharge from the U.S. Army. We know that 1 in 3 veterans lives with arthritis, a serious, chronic and complex disease that affects 1 in 4 Americans in the general population. Arthritis carries with it enormous physical, financial, and societal costs, but for veterans and service members, the costs are multiplied. Research supporting better prevention strategies, interventions and treatments is critical to reducing the number of service members and veterans suffering from arthritis.

WHY SERVICE MEMBERS ARE MORE PRONE TO ARTHRITIS

- Service members regularly carry 60- to 100-pound packs that can injure and weaken their joints
- Shock waves from blasts can cause early joint damage, leading to post-traumatic osteoarthritis (OA)
- Service members injured by roadside bombs and other blasts are often diagnosed with arthritis within 2-4 years of being injured, versus civilian injuries where onset usually occurs 7-10 years later
- Service members are often injured at a young age, which translates to more years of joint-related symptoms, activity limitations, and risks associated with medical procedures

CONSEQUENCES OF ARTHRITIS FOR VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS

- In FY 2017, more than 8.4 million veterans received disability compensation for musculoskeletal conditions such as degenerative arthritis, post-traumatic OA, or limited range of joint motion – a nearly 50 percent increase over FY 2013 (5.7 million)
- A 2016 Arthritis Foundation analysis estimates lifetime health care and disability costs of nearly \$1 million for a U.S. Army soldier diagnosed with post-traumatic OA at age 24 (two years after a traumatic injury), who is discharged and requires knee replacement surgery in his or her thirties

#AdvocateforArthritis



CREATE A STANDALONE ARTHRITIS MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

They protect our freedom. Let's protect them

Arthritis is the number one cause of disability of veterans and is the second leading cause of medical discharge from the U.S. Army.

The Department of Defense's Congressionally Authorized Research Program (CDMRP) is designed to fund research for the benefit of American service members, veterans and their families. Arthritis affects 1 in 3 veterans (versus 1 in 4 civilians) and is a leading cause of medical discharge from the military. It is a research topic with specific dedicated CDMRP funding.

Congress can address the impact of arthritis on our military members by creating a line item in the CDMRP at \$20 million from existing Department of Defense research funds. Such a program would meet the needs of active duty personnel and veterans. Moreover, it would help that helps our military and veteran populations with arthritis, which is the number one cause of disability in the United States.

Ask federal policymakers to support funding for a \$20 million DoD arthritis research program so all people affected by arthritis can benefit from groundbreaking



Compose Your Message

- Delegate Eleanor Norton

Subject

Support DoD Arthritis Research

Message Body

Please add your own story about this issue to personalize your message

As an Advocate for arthritis, I am writing to urge you to support dedicated funding for arthritis research at the Department of Defense. Did you know that one in three veterans and service members in the United States lives with arthritis? Arthritis carries with it enormous physical, financial, and societal costs, but for veterans and

Review Your Profile

[Not Julie?](#)

Ms. Julie Eller
jeller@arthritis.org
1734 P St NW Apt 34, Washington, DC

Send Message

Virtu

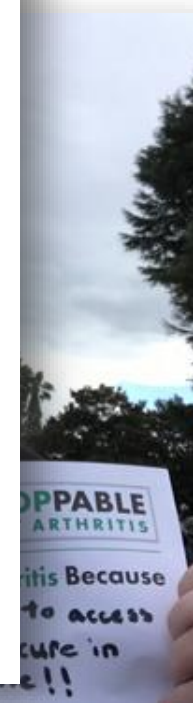
I #AdvocateforArthritis Because



Live Yes!



arthritis.org/actioncenter



ion®

Walk to Cure Arthritis Advocacy Booth

If you're interested, please reach out to your State Director and your local staff contact to volunteer.



A petition on Step Therapy Reform



An Action Alert on Step Therapy Reform



An Opportunity to invite your legislator to attend and speak

Advocacy in Action Online Community

Live Yes!

Step 1: Sign up for the Online Forum

Step 2: Participate in the Advocacy in Action Forum

Start a thread, contribute to a discussion, make a new friend!

3 posts = one Ambassador activity!

The screenshot shows the Arthritis Foundation LiveYes! forum interface. At the top, there are navigation links for Home, Discussions, Notifications (with a 1 notification), Saved, Search, and a user profile. The main content area is titled 'Discussion > Advocacy in Action' and features a prominent green button labeled 'START A NEW POST'. Below this, there are three forum posts listed under the heading 'ADVOCACY IN ACTION POSTS'. Each post includes the title, a brief description, the number of replies, the author's name, and the time since posted. The first post is 'Welcome to the Advocacy and Access Forum!' by knitterb, with 60 replies and posted 18 minutes ago. The second is 'Fundraising Ideas' by Michele G., with 2 replies and posted 15 hours ago. The third is 'Thinking of becoming an Advocacy Ambassador?' by Michele G., with 2 replies and posted 15 hours ago. On the right side, there is a 'TOP POSTS' section with three featured posts, each with a brief description, author name, date, and number of comments.

Arthritis Foundation | LiveYes!

Home Discussions Notifications Saved Search You

Discussion > Advocacy in Action

START A NEW POST

ADVOCACY IN ACTION POSTS REPLIES LATEST REPLY

Welcome to the Advocacy and Access Forum!
Please introduce yourself with your one-sentence story! 60 replies knitterb 18 minutes ago

Fundraising Ideas
So I'm trying to raise \$10,000 for my Jingle Bell Run fundraiser. Looking for any good ideas or small events that could raise a few hundred to a thousand dollars. Thoughts? 2 replies Michele G. 15 hours ago

Thinking of becoming an Advocacy Ambassador?
Michelle asked me to start a new post regarding those of us who Advocate. I actually got started by doing an Advocacy Summit in my state in 2017 and meeting a Platinum Ambassador from my state at the 2017 Conference of Champions. & ... more 2 replies Michele G. 15 hours ago

TOP POSTS

WELCOME TO THE RA FORUM, PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF
Hi All! Super excited to be part of the new Live Yes! Online ...
50 minutes ago | knitterb
68 comments

WHAT TYPE DO YOU HAVE?
What type of arthritis or related disease do you or your lov ...
October 14, 2018 | TiffAmomXtwo
67 comments

WELCOME TO THE ADVOCACY AND ACCESS FORUM!
Please introduce yourself with your one-sentence story! ...
18 minutes ago | knitterb
60 comments

PETS - WHAT WACKY BEASTS INHABIT YOUR WORLD?
Share pictures and stories of your favorite friends that don ...
October 13, 2018 | Kevin Purcell
16 comments

WELCOME TO THE RA FORUM, PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF
REPLY

Briefing Schedule



All briefings will take place at
3:00 pm eastern time:

March 27

April 24

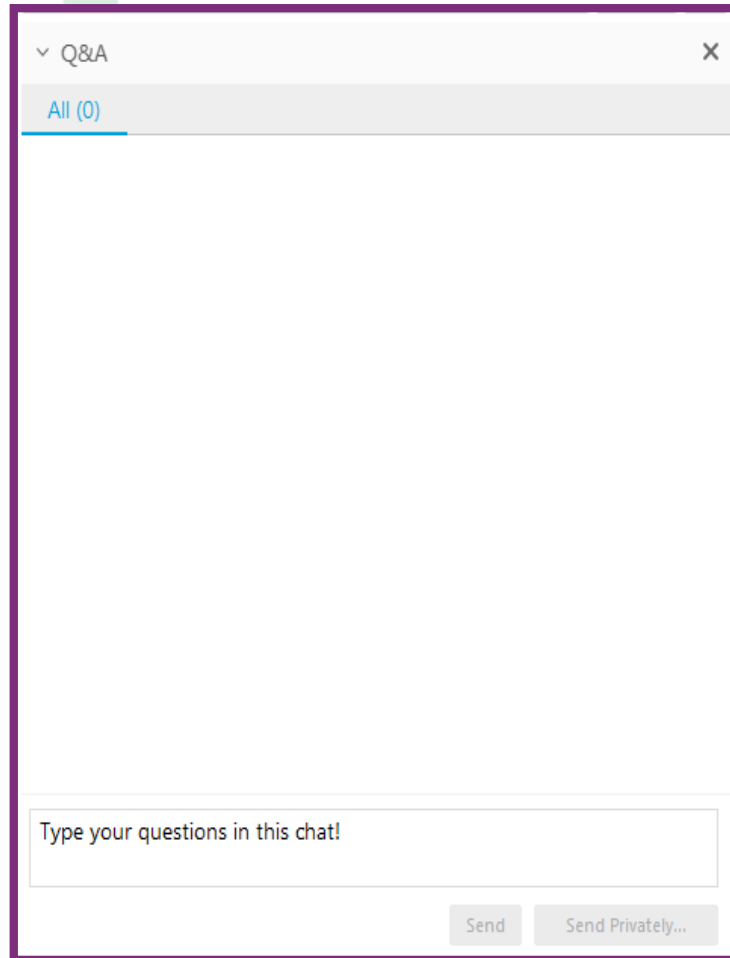
June 26

August 21

Questions



Live Yes!



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Thank you!



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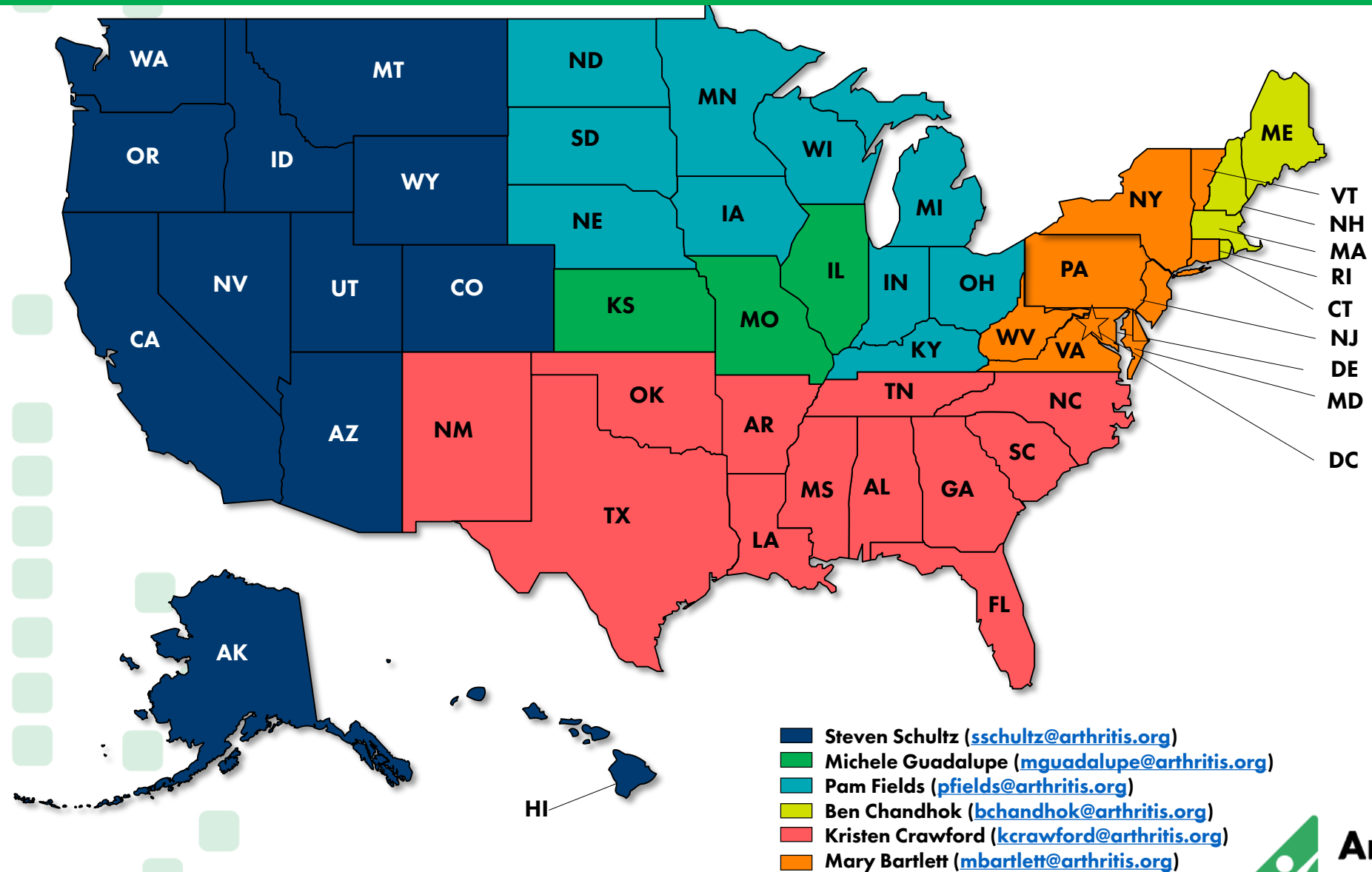
New Ambassador Orientation
February 2019



Live Yes!



Advocacy Leadership Team Map





Core Components of our Program



Federal



State



Grassroots

What is the Ambassador Program?



“You can actually make a difference! It’s a learning experience and brings you out of your box and expands your horizon. It’s not just about helping the Arthritis Foundation, but your family, too, and finding a cure for everyone with arthritis.”

- Keith Maschitta, Platinum Ambassador, Atoka, TN



“The Ambassador program gives people an opportunity to channel passion into action and make a difference on the state and federal levels for everyone with arthritis.”

- Margo Deihl, Ambassador, Fredericksburg, VA





Mission of the Ambassador Program

- **Ambassadors serve** as liaisons between the Arthritis Foundation and their Congressional District's Representative and state representatives
- Ambassadors are asked to work with the Foundation's Advocacy and Access staff on special assignments to **advance** the Foundation's advocacy efforts and to **share** their story with important decision makers.

What does an Ambassador do?

- Participate in webinars every other month with an update, speakers, and a monthly activity
- Perform a variety of tasks that build towards creating a relationship with your legislators

Tasks can take less than 15 minutes

- Cornerstone assignment: August Recess in-district visits



Your Story Matters.



Your voice is important – only you can tell your story and understand how arthritis impacts your life



YOU are the experts. As an Ambassador, you'll have a platform to share your experience and make positive changes for people with arthritis



We advocate every day by talking to our friends, family, and neighbors. If we don't talk about arthritis with Congress and in the states, who will?

“Advocates have enormous power”



Members of Congress rely on their constituents to share their story so that they know what is important to their community.

Its our job to share the arthritis story with Congress to make sure that they understand the people impacted by the health policy decisions they make.

Advocacy 101: Remembering High School Government



There are 435
Representatives and 100
Senators in Congress



Elected officials at all levels of government represent the members of their community called **constituents**.

Constituents have specific elected officials based on where they live.

Each **constituent** has:



One **Representative**

Two **Senators**



From a Bill

To a Law

We have the power to inform every step of this process as Ambassadors willing to share our stories.



THE BILL IS DRAFTED.

A senator or representative drafts a bill or a joint resolution with the goal of passing it into law.



THE BILL IS INTRODUCED.

The bill is introduced in the U.S. Senate or in the U.S. House (or both) and receives a number.



THE BILL IS REPORTED.

The committee must approve the bill and send it to the House or Senate floor for debate.



THE BILL IS DEBATED.

Members of Congress discuss why they support or oppose the bill.

THE BILL IS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE(S).

The committee members analyze and mark up the bill before it can be sent to the House or Senate floor.



THE BILL IS VOTED ON.

In the U.S. House, the bill passes with a simple majority (218 of 435) as well as in the U.S. Senate (51 of 100).



THE BILL GOES TO CONFERENCE.

If the House and Senate versions of the bill differ, a conference committee must work out those differences and draft a final bill for a vote.

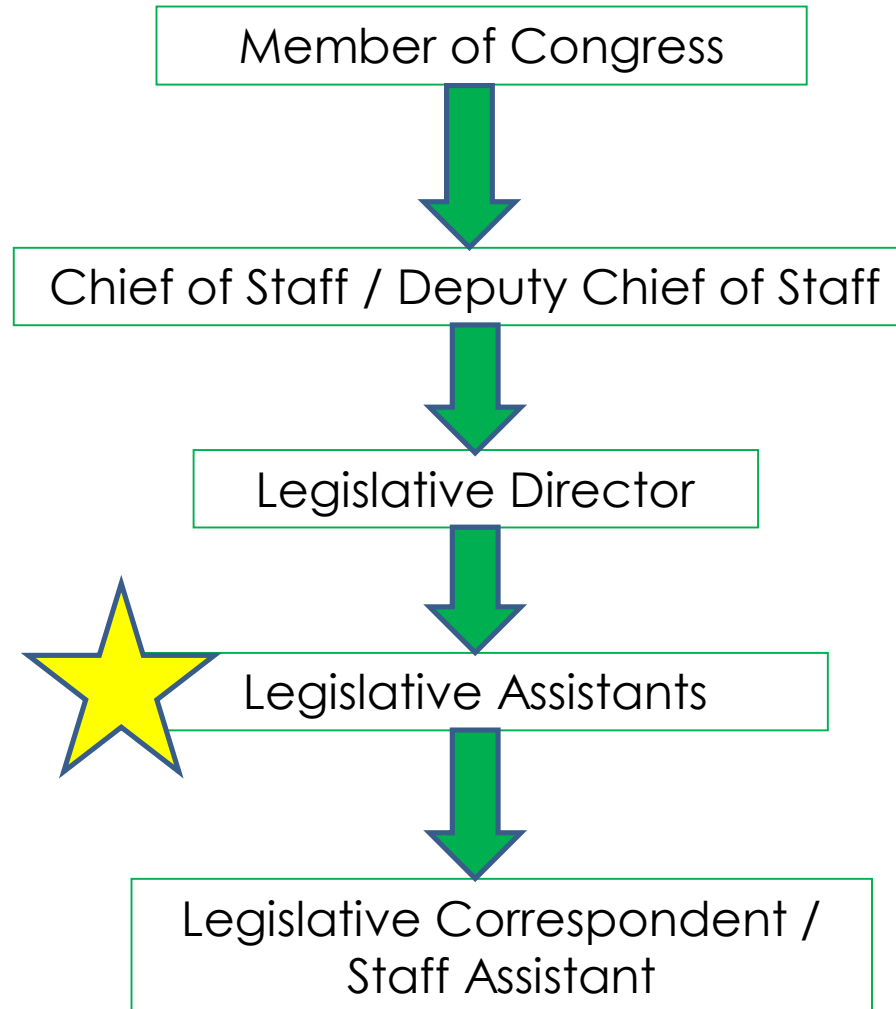


THE BILL GOES TO THE PRESIDENT.

The president must sign the bill into law.



How is a typical Congressional office structured?



Pro Tip: To get started as an Ambassador, use the Action Center to introduce yourself to your member of Congress.

In your letter, ask for the contact information of the Legislative Assistant that covers health issues.

After that you'll be able to contact them directly when we have an assignment.





Our Federal Priorities

- Reforming burdensome Step Therapy practices, nationwide
- Establishing research opportunities to find a cure for arthritis at the Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health
- Congressional Arthritis Caucus
- Ensuring Patient Centered Health Care Reform
- Addressing the Pediatric Rheumatology Shortage



Our State Priorities

All states are different but we work on:

- Step therapy Reform
- Prior authorization
- Formulary transparency
- Biosimilar substitution
- Narrow provider networks
- Out-of-pocket medication costs

Your One Sentence Story

You are an expert when it comes to your arthritis story!

- ✓ **Be Honest.**
- ✓ **Be Concise.**
- ✓ **Be You.**

Remember: Polite Persistence Persuades People!



"Each month my medications cost \$1,200 per month out of pocket. Sometimes that means that I can't afford to pay my rent."



"Without access to my medicines, I wouldn't be able to work, let alone walk."



"I have to take a day off to just to manage my family's health care... Managing my care should not feel like a full time job."



Arthritis Foundation

Blog Local Offices Arthritis Resource Finder Kids Get Arthritis Too Español

About Arthritis | Living With Arthritis | Fighting for You | Get Involved | About Us | **DONATE**

Discover Your Cooking Style
Take our quiz to find the perfect recipes for your unique cooking style and arthritis type!

Imagine a world free from arthritis pain. HELP US END ARTHRITIS.

\$50

DONATE NOW!

I'm Looking for

YOUR MONEY AT WORK

52 Million people impacted by 77 state legislative wins since 2014	26 major research projects worth >\$30 MILLION to pursue a cure	>1,800 campers at 42 camps around the country	137 local programs offering personalized help & support across 45 states
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Pain Toolkit
SPONSORED BY **BIOFREEZE**
UNDERSTANDING PAIN | ARTHRITIS PAIN
TREATING PAIN | YOUR PAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Action Center
Contact Your Elected Officials

THE LATEST FROM OUR BLOG
Ambassador Spotlight – Stephanie Kwiecien
Advocating for the arthritis community, says 27-year-old Stephanie Kwiecien, has restored the police that bullying shut down. "Advocacy is really
[Read more >>](#)

Anyone can make their voices heard when they make use of our Action Center.

Come to our Action Center, we have tools inspired by you & built for you.



Live Yes!

The screenshot shows the Arthritis Foundation website's Action Center. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Blog, Online Forum, Local Offices, Arthritis Resource Finder, Kids Get Arthritis Too, and Español. Below this is a main navigation bar with links for About Arthritis, Living With Arthritis, Fighting for You, Get Involved, About Us, and a prominent green DONATE button. The left sidebar contains a menu with categories like Advocate Program, Advocate Tools & Resources, Ambassador Program, Advocacy Summit, Action Center (which is expanded to show Find Your Legislators and Track Legislation), Federal Policy Priorities, Position Statements, Our Results, and News and Regulatory Letters. Below the sidebar is a 'JOIN THE FIGHT' section with a 'SIGN UP TO BE AN ADVOCATE' button. The main content area features a large banner for 'Connect with Congress | Share Your Story' with a background image of the US Capitol. Below the banner are navigation dots and three filter buttons: Federal Campaigns, Campaigns, and Surveys. Two featured articles are visible: 'A Step in the Right Direction: Patient Centered Reforms to Step Therapy' and 'Jingle for a Cure | Ask Congress to Support Arthritis Research!'.

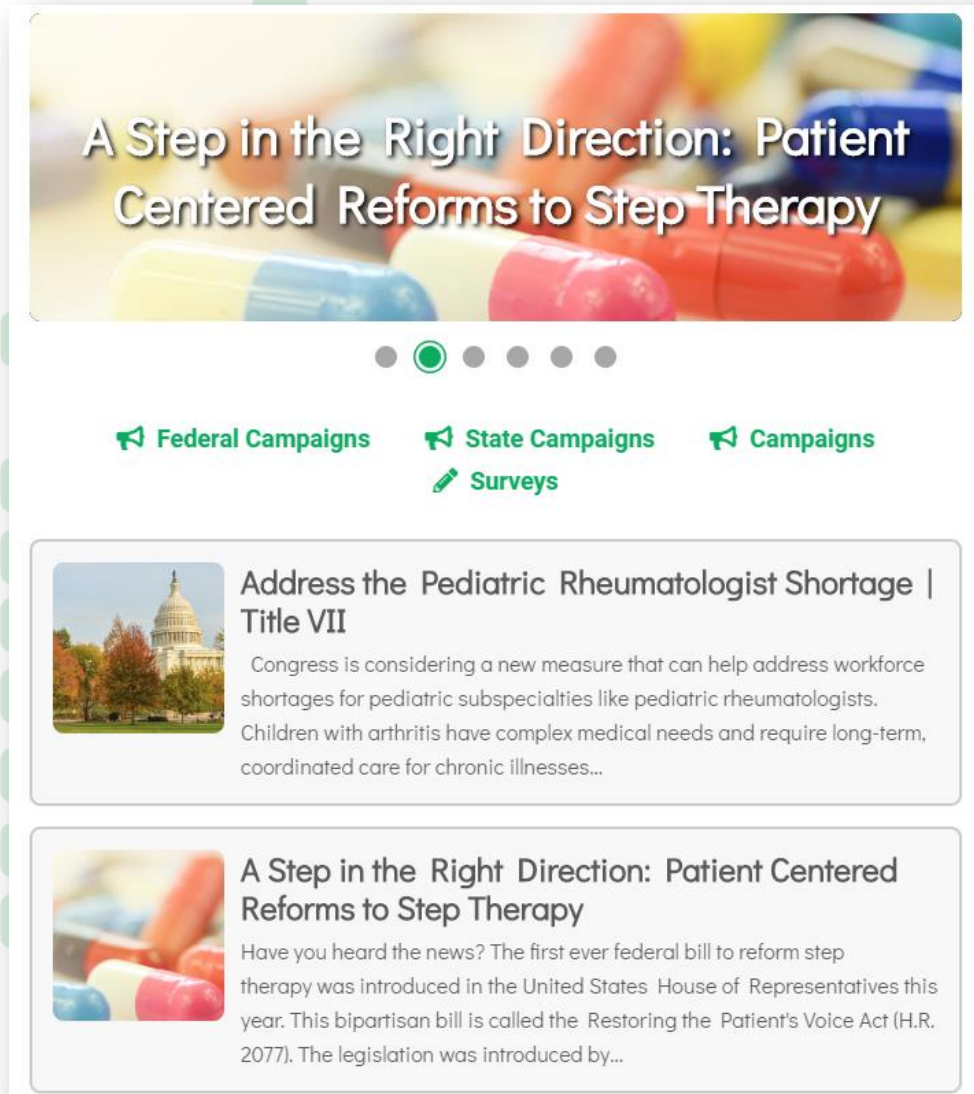
Make Use of the Left Hand Navigation to quickly get to our tools and resources.



Click into any of our Action Alerts to share your story in 5 minutes or less.



Mastering the Art of the Action Alert



A Step in the Right Direction: Patient Centered Reforms to Step Therapy

Federal Campaigns State Campaigns Campaigns Surveys

Address the Pediatric Rheumatologist Shortage | Title VII
Congress is considering a new measure that can help address workforce shortages for pediatric subspecialties like pediatric rheumatologists. Children with arthritis have complex medical needs and require long-term, coordinated care for chronic illnesses...

A Step in the Right Direction: Patient Centered Reforms to Step Therapy
Have you heard the news? The first ever federal bill to reform step therapy was introduced in the United States House of Representatives this year. This bipartisan bill is called the Restoring the Patient's Voice Act (H.R. 2077). The legislation was introduced by...

When you come to our Action Center, we have pre-formatted messages that you can send.

Ambassadors can make their voices heard and have their messages read by modifying their message!



Write



Tweet

Compose Your Message

- Officials who did not sponsor/co-sponsor the bill H.R. 2999 (U.S.-115th Congress (2017-2018))

Subject

Ensure Patient Access | Cap the Co-Pay on Specialty Drugs

Personalize your message with opening comments (optional)

Message Body

On behalf of the 54 million adults and nearly 300,000 children in the United States with doctor-diagnosed arthritis, I urge you to support H.R. 2999, the Patients' Access to Treatment Act (PATA), which would limit burdensome patient cost-sharing for expensive specialty tier drugs.

Arthritis is a complex, chronic condition. For many in the arthritis community, access to health care can mean the difference between a life of chronic pain and disability and

Add any closing remarks here (optional)

Remaining: 8,907

Customize Your Signature (optional)

Enter Your Info

[Privacy Policy](#)

Your Information

Prefix *

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Phone *

Home Information

Street Address *

ZIP Code *

I want to receive future email alerts

Remember me (Uncheck on shared computers)

Send Message

Live Yes!

Putting the **PERSON** behind the **POLICY**

How much time do you have?

5 minutes | Change the Subject Line

8 minutes | Provide opening comments that introduce your patient experience

10 minutes | Add a personal thank you and closing

15 minutes | Integrate your story into the message body

When you scroll of the bottom of the Action Center, you'll see two great tools.

Find Legislation

View and search for legislation.

Enter Keywords



Find Officials

Look up and contact your officials.

ZIP Code



The Find Legislation Tool allows you to look up and learn about important legislation.

The Find Officials Tool will help you identify your elected officials & learn about them!

SB 11



SB 11: Health care coverage: mental health parity.



2019-2020 Regular Sessions

SB 11, as introduced, Beall. Health care coverage: mental health parity. Existing law, the Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975, provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of th ...

Show More...

Sponsors



Senator Jim Beall Jr. (D-CA-015)

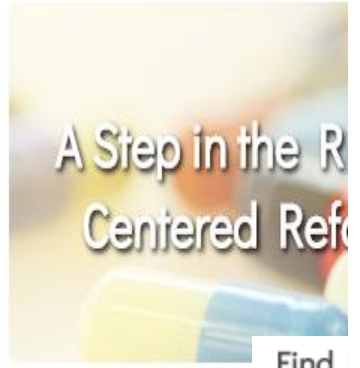
Actions

12/4/2018 From printer. May be acted upon on or after January 3.

12/3/2018 Introduced. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. To print.

More Information

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB11



Find

Have you heard the news? The fir
House of Representatives this ye
2077). The legislation was introd
both physicians and have seen fir
relationship.

Step therapy, also known as 'fail first protocol'
expensive treatment, or series of treatments, b
physician. Overly burdensome step therapy cai
prolong ineffective treatment, preventing patie
access the most appropriate treatment recom

Close

TAKE ACTION

Step Therapy

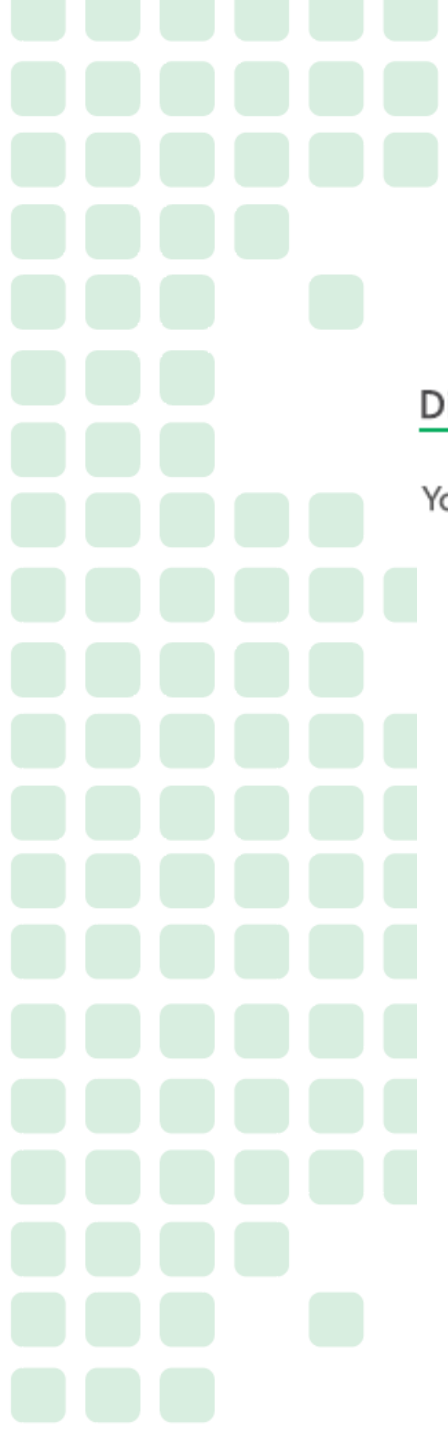
alize your message

ng to thank you for your
Act, a bipartisan bill that seeks
rthritis, a complex disease that
dren, requires specialized care

Not Julie?

Eller

20036



Compose Your Message

- Senator Cory Booker

Subject

Message Body

Directory

Your Feder



Review Your Profile

Your Information



Ms.

Julie

Eller

jeller@arthritis.org



9736322907

Home Information **Address Okay**



29 Lane Ave

Caldwell

NJ

07006



Send me email alerts

Remember me

Send Message



Live Yes!

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ject

J-



Storybank | Tell Us Your Arthritis Story

Thank you for your willingness to share your story! By doing so, you are helping us advocate on behalf of people with arthritis by highlighting how limitations on co-payment assistance programs impact your care. Guidelines for Telling Your...

What are some of the challenges that you face living with or caring for someone with arthritis?

- Have you ever experienced a delay in accessing your medications?
- Have you ever had difficulty affording your treatments?
- Have you ever had an unexpected charge associated with a treatment or appointment?
- Have you experienced difficulty finding a doctor in your area or navigating your insurance plan?

Compose Your Message

- Ms. Julie Eller

Subject

Message Body

Review Your Profile

[Not Julie?](#)

Your Information

Ms.	Julie	Eller
jeller@arthritis.org		

Live Yes!



**Together, we ensure people with
arthritis are heard.**

Thank you!



Julie Eller
Manager of Grassroots
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Stephanie Livingston
Consumer Health Specialist
slivingston@arthritis.org