

2024 Advocacy Year in Review



Our Advocates and Ambassadors have been hard at work in 2024!
Check out our accomplishments below.

Major Accomplishments

Department of Defense Arthritis Research Program

For the first time, Congress included the Department of Defense Arthritis Research Program in the annual appropriations process. The program was funded at \$10 million. We continue to urge Congress to increase that funding level to \$20 million.

Judicial Advocacy

This year, we began engaging in judicial advocacy by monitoring and educating patients on key court issues this year. We celebrated a court ruling that ensures copay assistance counts toward patients' out-of-pocket costs and advocated to keep the Food and Drug Administration's authority to approve medications for drug safety and access to patients.



State Legislative Successes

Continued advocacy on priority issues including copay accumulator limits, step therapy reform, and access to biomarker testing have driven 15 states to enact new legislation this year.

Contact us at advocacy@arthritis.org to learn more about these wins.

This progress was driven by our passionate Advocates and Ambassadors!

10

Advocate led letters to the editor and op-eds published

50+

Advocates attending federal and state lobby days

1,000+

Messages to policymakers

10+

Advocates who spoke at Arthritis Foundation Events on behalf of advocacy

More Highlights from 2024

Wrapped Up the First Two-Year Advocate Cycle

2024 marked the second year of our two-year advocate cycle. Highlights include the relaunch of the Ambassador Program, Junior Ambassador Program (sitting at 105 Jrs!), and the introduction of additional training sessions and resources



Safe Step Act

We increased the number of cosponsors to 230 in the House of Representatives. That is over half of the house, meaning that if a floor vote were to occur, it would pass!



August Recess

The highest participation in August Recess in recent history, with 62 participants, was achieved! An interactive webinar kickoff helped group advocates connect with individuals in their states.

