



**SUPPORT ENACTMENT OF
THE ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND CURE ACT OF 2009**

The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) strongly urges Congress to enact the *Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act of 2009* (H.R. 1210/S. 984), introduced by Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA)/ Fred Upton (R-MI) and Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA),/Christopher “Kit” Bond (R-MO). This legislation would expand efforts to discover and implement new ways to prevent, treat, and care for patients with arthritis and related rheumatic diseases.

- Nearly one in five adult Americans (**46 million**) suffer from arthritis.
- Over 300,000 children also live with the pain, disability and emotional trauma caused by juvenile arthritis.
- Nine states do not have a single pediatric rheumatologist.
- Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States.
- According to the CDC, the total costs attributable to arthritis and other rheumatic conditions in the United States in 2003 was approximately \$128 billion.
- The burden of arthritis will continue to rise: by the year 2030, an estimated 67 million Americans will suffer from the debilitating pain and limited mobility caused by arthritis.

The *Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act* would enhance rheumatic disease research and public awareness of these often-debilitating diseases by:

- Enhance the National Arthritis Action Plan by providing additional support to federal, state, and private/non-profit efforts to prevent and manage arthritis;
- Provide federal support for initiatives to educate the healthcare profession and the public on successful self-management strategies for controlling arthritis;
- Bolster federal juvenile arthritis research activities and prioritizes epidemiological activities focused on better understanding the prevalence, incidence, and outcomes associated with juvenile arthritis,
- Provide training grants to universities supporting pediatric rheumatology programs.

ACR urges Congress to enact the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act of 2009 to prevent, treat, and care for adults and children with arthritis and associated rheumatic diseases and to ensure that patients are guaranteed access to rheumatologists and appropriate health services for their disease.

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