



# Sample Congressional Request Letter

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**Subject Line:** Prevent Arthritis: Support CDC  
**To:** Health Care/Appropriations Legislative Assistants (LAs) and  
Legislative Directors (LDs)  
**From:** Your Name/Arthritis Ambassador

**Copy:**

Dear [\[Insert Name\]](#):

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) arthritis program implements proven strategies that can help reduce the arthritis burden and reach more people with arthritis.

Over the past five years, 36 state health departments have successfully used CDC funding to increase public awareness of the burden of arthritis and increase the availability of proven interventions. These interventions are recognized by the CDC to reduce health care expenditures.

A CDC-convened expert panel recommended states receive larger grants to be more effective. Without increased funding, 24 states will lose CDC support for their arthritis programs.

I am writing to ask that you urge [\[Insert Members' Name\]](#) to support a critical Congressional investment of \$23 million (\$10 million over FY08) in CDC's arthritis program. This amounts to 50 cents per person suffering from arthritis.

The medical and societal impact of arthritis in the U.S. is in the billions of dollars, but programs like the CDC initiative bring us one step closer to a cure. Please help us expand funding for this important health intervention.

Sincerely,

[\[Ambassador Name\]](#)

Arthritis Foundation Ambassador



# Sample Congressional Request Letter

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**Subject Line:** Pass the Arthritis Prevention, Control & Cure Act  
**To:** Health Care/Appropriations Legislative Assistants (LAs) and  
Legislative Directors (LDs)  
**From:** Your Name/Arthritis Ambassador

**Copy:**

Dear *[Insert Name]*:

I am one of the 46 million Americans suffering from arthritis. As the most common cause of disability and the third-leading cause of work limitations in the U.S., arthritis has a \$128 billion impact on our nation's economy.

Congress recently introduced the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act (S.626/H.R. 1283). This landmark legislation will:

- Strengthen arthritis public health initiatives, allowing more people to be diagnosed early to minimize pain and permanent disability;
- Expand the reach of evidence-based self-management activities such as weight control and physical activity, which have been proven to reduce pain and health care expenditures;
- Ensure that limited federal funding for arthritis is used in the most strategic manner possible through the formation of a federal interagency coordinating committee; and
- Authorize a remedy to address the country's severe shortage of pediatric rheumatologists.

I am writing to ask that you urge *[insert Member's name]* and the leadership of the House Energy and Commerce and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees to act now on H.R. 1283/S.626.

The Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act has 230 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives and 53 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate, yet 46 million Americans are still waiting for Congressional Attention.

Sincerely,

*[Ambassador Name]*

Arthritis Foundation Ambassador



# Sample Congressional Request Letter

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**Subject Line:** Cure Arthritis: Expand NIH Funding

**To:** Health Care/Appropriations Legislative Assistants (LAs) and Legislative Directors (LDs)

**From:** Your Name/Arthritis Ambassador

**Copy:**

Dear Congressional Staffer:

Research funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Arthritis Foundation has produced a revolutionary class of biological therapies that alleviate painful inflammation and prevent disability.

Like many of the 46 million arthritis sufferers, I have personally benefited from these groundbreaking therapies. While these advances have changed our lives significantly, there is still no cure for the disease, and its prevalence and impact continue to grow.

An increased public investment in biomedical research holds real promise of improving our lives. This investment will reduce the burden of arthritis on the U.S. economy with fewer missed work days, smaller disability payments and less expensive surgical interventions.

I am writing to request that *[insert Member's name]* support a \$1.9 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health in the Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill.

With continued and increased investment in research, we believe a cure is near.

Sincerely,

*[Ambassador's Name]*

Arthritis Foundation Ambassador