

Rothman Co-Sponsors the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act

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Wood-Ridge
Resident and Arthritis Foundation Advocate Thanks Congressman Rothman

(Washington, DC)-On Wednesday, February 27, 2008, Wood-Ridge resident Jonathan Lausell met with Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) on behalf of the Arthritis Foundation. Jonathan thanked Congressman Rothman, who represents him in the U.S. House of Representatives, for co-sponsoring the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act (H.R. 1283) and said the bill should become law as soon as possible.

If enacted, the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act would strengthen arthritis public health initiatives, allowing more people to be diagnosed early and avoid pain and permanent disability. This landmark bill would also address the country's shortage of pediatric rheumatologists by authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a loan repayment program for students interested in working to diagnose and treat juvenile arthritis patients. Nationwide, 294,000 children have a form of juvenile arthritis, including juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and scleroderma.

Arthritis is a growing public health concern in the U.S., where about 21% of adults-46 million Americans-have some form of arthritis. By the year 2030, that number is expected to increase to 67 million Americans. In New Jersey, 1,562,000 adults live with arthritis, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition to causing pain, Jonathan Lausell argued that arthritis impacts our nation's economy because nearly 19 million people with arthritis are forced to stop working within 10 years of diagnosis. All told, arthritis costs the U.S. economy \$128 billion-\$81 billion in direct medical costs and \$47 billion in indirect productivity costs, according to the Arthritis Foundation.

Congressman

Rothman is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which makes decisions about all U.S. spending. Rothman is a strong supporter of H.R.1283 and is a long-time advocate for increased funding for the National Institutes of Health and CDC, both of which conduct federally-funded medical research on arthritis and other debilitating diseases.

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