

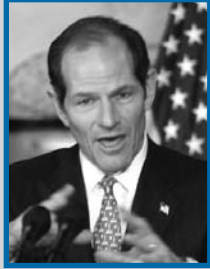


Summer
2007

Advocacy News

Arthritis Foundation, Inc., New York Chapter • 122 East 42nd Street • New York, New York 10168-1898 • (212) 984-8700

State Says YES to Arthritis Resources



Governor Eliot Spitzer



Senator Kemp Hannon



Senator Andrew Lanza

Thanks to Governor Eliot Spitzer, Senator Kemp Hannon, and Senator Andrew Lanza, a total of \$355,000 is allocated in the recently passed 2007 New York State budget to improve New Yorkers' access to arthritis disease management resources.

Governor Spitzer's Executive Budget included the largest allocation—a renewal of a **\$250,000** capacity-building grant. From 2002-2006, the four New York State chapters of the Arthritis Foundation received \$700,000 in state funds which permitted the implementation of 354 disease management programs reaching 6,000 New Yorkers with arthritis.

Also approved for 2007 is a renewal of a \$75,000 allocation from the state legislative budget, with a \$25,000 add-on, spearheaded by Senator Kemp Hannon, for a total of **\$100,000** from the legislature.

An additional **\$5,000** came to the Chapter from Senator Andrew Lanza's budget to increase the availability of exercise programs in Staten Island.

This is great news for all New Yorkers. With this funding, we expect to be able to provide more disease management classes, add to our cadre of instructors, and reach hundreds of New Yorkers with arthritis.

We thank our Governor and Senators Hannon and Lanza for saying "yes" to a healthier constituency.

Action Alert

Please take time to thank Governor Spitzer and Senators Hannon and Lanza for championing our cause and giving New Yorkers greater access to arthritis disease management resources.

Governor Eliot Spitzer

State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224
Email through Web site: www.ny.gov/governor

Senator Kemp Hannon

Chair, Senate Health Committee
6th Senate District
224 Seventh Street, Floor 2
Garden City, NY 11530
Email: Hannon@senate.state.ny.us

Senator Andrew J. Lanza

3845 Richmond Avenue
Suite 2A
Staten Island, NY 10312
Email: Lanza@senate.state.ny.us

NYC Council Accelerates Outreach

In its continuing efforts to expedite the delivery of arthritis exercise and education programs to more New York City neighborhoods, the Chapter is getting tremendous support from the New York City Council, spearheaded by member **Alan J. Gerson** (Manhattan) and Council Speaker **Christine C. Quinn**. Through 2006, with city grants, the Chapter conducted 58 courses, held 24 public forums and reached over 1,700 people.

The Chapter is continuing to work with New York City Council Members **Maria Del Carmen Arroyo** (Bronx), **Bill de Blasio** (Brooklyn), **Joel Rivera** (Bronx), and **David I. Weprin** (Queens) to help their constituents gain greater access to Chapter exercise and education programs.

Ongoing and new Chapter relationships with senior centers, senior residences and community facilities provide established venues for these classes and a home for the resource library of arthritis-related materials provided by the Chapter along with these programs. City funding has also enabled the Chapter to train 21 new instructors this winter; and a second training is planned for June.

"These Chapter disease management programs have a proven track record for helping to reduce pain and improving patient stamina and outlook," says Sara Kramer, M.D., Chair of the Chapter's Government Affairs Committee. "We applaud the enthusiasm and foresight of the New York City Council Members who are working with us to offer these resources to more New Yorkers with arthritis."

This issue is underwritten by an educational grant from Pfizer Inc



New York delegates to the 2007 Advocacy Summit take a break from their visits on Capitol Hill.

2007 Advocacy Summit Timing is Everything!!!

At the end of the 109th Congress in 2006, the *Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act* had nearly a majority of co-sponsors in both the Senate (49) and the House (217)! The legislation, however, was not enacted during the 109th Congress and had to be introduced to the 110th.

While disappointed with the outcome of the last Congress, we couldn't have picked a better time to be on Capitol Hill for the Arthritis Foundation's 9th Annual Advocacy and Kids' Summit. Occurring at the end of February, it was just about **two weeks after** Senator Kennedy (MA) introduced the *Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act* (S.626) to the new 110th Congress with original co-sponsors Bond (MO), Akaka (HI), Leahy (VT), Menendez (NJ) Craig (ID), and Shelby (AL). It was also **just two days before** the House bill (H.R. 1283) was introduced by Representatives Eshoo (CA-14) and Pickering (MA-3), along with 57 original co-sponsors.

Even before members of Congress returned home to their districts in early April, the legislation had won over 13 additional Representatives and four Senators...and the momentum continues!

In addition to drumming up support for the *Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act*, New York's contingent of 14 advocates at the Summit sought an additional **\$2 million in funding for a new osteoarthritis prevention initiative and the preservation of \$13.4 million for the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) arthritis program for Fiscal Year 2008**. They also encouraged that Congress provide a **6.7% increase for the National Institutes of Health Common Fund for Fiscal Year 2008** to pursue research initiatives.

Action Alert

The 2007 Summit rallying cry was "46," proclaimed in buttons and printed materials...46 million Americans with arthritis! Below are the New York State Representatives already signed on as co-sponsors of the *Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act*. **Make your voice heard** by contacting Senators Clinton and Schumer and your representatives who have not yet signed on as co-sponsors. You can do this through the Advocacy section of our Web site, www.arthritis.org. Tell them we need their commitment. And please don't forget to let those who are already co-sponsors know how much we appreciate their support.

Steve Israel	(D 2nd)	Jose Serrano	(D 16th)
Carolyn McCarthy	(D 4th)	Nita Lowey	(D 18th)
Edolphus Towns	(D 10th)	John Hall	(D 19th)
Yvette Clarke	(D 11th)	Michael McNulty	(D 21st)
Carolyn Maloney	(D 14th)	John McHugh	(R 23rd)
Charles Rangel	(D 15th)		



Rep. José Serrano (D- 16th) meets with Kolby Doemel in his office.



(Left to right) Savannah Rafferty, Kolby Doemel, and Meghan Mitchell catch up with Senator Clinton between meetings.

JA 2007 National Conference, July 1-4

Success is Sweet: Linking our Lives Together is the theme for the 2007 JA (Juvenile Arthritis) Conference, scheduled for July 1 - 4 at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Discounted conference registration is available until **June 4**, so visit the conference Web pages at www.arthritis.org to learn all about the exciting events planned and get details for registration and hotel reservations. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact Katie Bitner at (404) 965-7538, or kbitner@arthritis.org.

This year there will also be a special 2007 conference edition of the bi-monthly *Kids get arthritis too* newsletter which will be written and illustrated by attendees. An added feature of last year's conference, this special edition was so well received that conference organizers are planning to produce another issue which will be available on www.arthritis.org later in the summer after the conference.