



CDC Arthritis Coalition Statement on the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Request

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 12, 2018 — *Today, a group of nine organizations issued the following statement on the President's fiscal year 2019 budget request:*

"Today, the President released the administration's official budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2019. While we agree that our country needs to make important spending decisions, it should not be at the expense of sufficient resources to address the epidemic of arthritis – a chronic disease that affects one in four Americans and now carries an economic burden of over \$300 billion annually.

Unfortunately, the administration's proposed 2019 budget would cut nearly \$900 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including \$138 million from the Chronic Disease Division that houses the [Arthritis Program](#). Further, the budget would create a block grant intended to provide states with flexibility to address chronic disease programs as they see fit. In the absence of categorical funding, this proposal would almost certainly disadvantage programs like the Arthritis Program and could jeopardize the future of the program altogether.

The CDC's Arthritis Program is the only federal program dedicated solely to arthritis, the nation's leading cause of disability. As a result, the program collects data vital to understanding arthritis prevalence, trends, and factors impacting quality of life for individuals with this chronic disease. Nowhere else across the federal government is this type of public health research and data collection completed. In addition, without Arthritis Program funding for state and national partners, support for evidence-based interventions would cease.

Robust scientific research goes hand-in-hand with proven public health interventions for arthritis. We are committed to working with the administration and Congress to strengthen the nation's investments in federal arthritis-related research and programs to ensure funding matches the overall disease burden."