



March 16, 2016

The Voice of Lupus Heard Throughout the U.S. Capitol
Add Yours as a LupusEAdvocate!



Congress is hearing the lupus patient perspective this week as the Alliance for Lupus Research and the Lupus Research Institute advocates visit our nation's legislators for 2016 Lupus Advocacy on the Hill!

With **over 50** of our lupus advocates out in force, we were able to tell the lupus story to **75 members of Congress and their staff**, representing **15 states**. But with your help, we can make sure that **every member of Congress from every state** understands what lupus is and why their constituents with lupus need their support.



Please join us as a #LupusEAdvocate and use our easy automated [Legislative Action Center](#) to email or telephone your federal legislators and ask them to help:

1. **[Strengthen Biomedical Research at the NIH](#)**

To continue our national commitment to research and to fighting lupus, the ALR/LRI National Advocacy Coalition **calls on Congress to include at least \$34.5 billion for National Institutes of Health (NIH)** in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education appropriations bill for FY2017.



2. **Support the 21st Century Cures/Medical Innovation Legislation**

ALR/LRI advocates support the **House 21st Century Cures Act (#CuresNow)** and the **Senate HELP Committee's** effort to develop a comprehensive "medical innovation" legislative package. Together, this legislation has the potential to accelerate development of much-needed new and safer therapies for lupus patients.

3. **Establish a Lupus Medical Research Program in the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program**

In light of the increasing numbers of women serving and the high numbers of female dependents treated at military health facilities each year, the ALR/LRI advocates fully support the Congressional Lupus Caucus request to initiate a Lupus Medical Research Program under the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program operated by the Department of Defense.

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Thanks go to Patti Allen, Founder of the PA Fund for Patient Advocacy and Care

More patients than ever were able to travel to Washington for 2016 Lupus Advocacy on the Hill, broadening the number of legislators who learned about the critical needs of people suffering with lupus.



That's because of financial aid provided by the PA Fund for Patient Advocacy and Care. Founded by an extraordinary businesswoman and lupus patient Patti Allen, the PA Fund has raised \$250,000 in just six months. After undergoing a life-threatening flare, Patti was determined to help others. "Because I survived," Patti explained simply. As she sat in on several support groups and heard the enormous challenges patients face, Patti saw a tremendous need for help.

She answered that need by founding the PA Fund as a separate restricted fund within the S.L.E. Lupus Foundation to help educate and support patients along with their families by increasing awareness of the disease and improving communication among healthcare providers and the general public. Through Patti's focus and commitment, the PA Fund has helped make several programs possible, ensuring the patient's voice is heard by physicians, families, researchers and now the nation's legislators. [Read more](#) about Patti's inspiring story.

***Thanks also go to our 2016 Lupus Advocacy Day sponsors: Genentech, Mallinckrodt, Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Lilly, and Biotechnology Innovation Organization**

**While our generous sponsors make the Lupus Advocacy Conference possible, their support does not influence the LRI's content or perspective.*



About the Lupus Research Institute

The Lupus Research Institute (LRI), the world's leading private supporter of novel research in lupus, pioneers discovery and champions scientific creativity as it has successfully demonstrated the power of innovation to propel scientific solutions in this complex autoimmune disease.

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