

Subtitle 5. [Advisory Counsel on] Arthritis [and Related Diseases] PREVENTION
AND CONTROL ACT.

13-501.

THE ARTHRITIS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM IS A PROGRAM IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATING CONSUMERS, AND EDUCATING AND TRAINING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, TEACHERS, AND PROVIDERS ABOUT ARTHRITIS.

[13-501.] 13-502.

(A) In this subtitle[,] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(B) "Advisory Council" means the State Advisory Council on Arthritis and Related Diseases.

(C) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE ARTHRITIS PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM.

13-503.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

(1) ARTHRITIS ENCOMPASSES MORE THAN 100 DISEASES AND CONDITIONS THAT AFFECT JOINTS, THE SURROUNDING TISSUES, AND OTHER CONNECTIVE TISSUES;

(2) AS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON FAMILY OF DISEASES IN THE UNITED STATES, ARTHRITIS AFFECTS NEARLY ONE OF EVERY SIX AMERICANS AND WILL IMPACT AN ESTIMATED 60,000,000 PEOPLE BY THE YEAR 2020;

(3) ARTHRITIS IS THE LEADING CAUSE OF DISABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES, LIMITING DAILY ACTIVITIES FOR MORE THAN 7,000,000 PEOPLE;

(4) ALTHOUGH PREVAILING MYTHS INACCURATELY PORTRAY ARTHRITIS AS AN OLD PERSON'S DISEASE, ARTHRITIS IS A MULTIGENERATIONAL DISEASE THAT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST PRESSING HEALTH PROBLEMS;

(5) ARTHRITIS HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCING THE PAINFUL SYMPTOMS AND FOR THE FAMILY MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS PROVIDING FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL;

(6) THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TREATING ARTHRITIS AND THE COMPLICATIONS OF ARTHRITIS ARE ESTIMATED AT ALMOST \$80,000,000,000 ANNUALLY;

(7) CURRENTLY, THE CHALLENGE EXISTS TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF EFFECTIVE, BUT OFTEN UNDERUTILIZED, INTERVENTIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY IN THE PREVENTION OR REDUCTION OF ARTHRITIS-RELATED PAIN AND DISABILITY;