So what is Advocacy?

- **American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition** defines this as:

  - The act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending a cause or course of action.
Approaching advocacy

- **AWIR** is a national group but medicine is practiced one patient in one clinic or moment of time in one place.

- The affects on that one patient and that one provider ripple outward.
So the first topic or question each of you needs to consider is …

- Do you focus on:
  - National issues
  - State issues
  - Research issues
  - Training issues
To start, focus Advocacy efforts on:

- Patients
- Providers
- Trainees
- Chose one issue you are passionate about and work on that!
"You can reduce your copay if you eat lots of chicken soup."
Advocacy topics: Patients

- Suggested initial topics:
  - Access to treatment options
  - Access to physicians
  - Access to appropriate testing
- Osteoporosis: access to DXA and reimbursement for these.
- Fail first policies
- Tier 4 pricing
- Step Therapy
- Others....
Advocacy for providers

- ASP +6% - taking us back to that from the sequester
- Standardized PA forms
- Compounding issues – an issue in Ohio right now
- Others
Where can you go, how to start

- Get involved in your state rheumatology group!
- Support RheumPac
- Write emails to your senators and congressional representatives on a state or national level.
  - ACR has a wonderful website with links
"I'm sorry, but your HMO will pay for a pound of cure, but not an ounce of prevention."
Questions?