



Healthy Bones, Healthy Women: The Impact of Bone Health

Roberta Biegel, MA
Senior Director
Public Policy & Government Relations

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When Bones Are Not Healthy



- Osteoporosis is the most common bone disease
- Osteoporosis disproportionately affects women
- A woman's risk of osteoporosis is equal to her combined risk of breast, ovarian and uterine cancer
- 1 in 2 women older than age 50 will have an osteoporosis-related fracture

U.S. Surgeon General's Report



- America's bone health is not very good
- We have the knowledge base and ability to greatly improve the situation
- Serious gap between what we can and should do and what we actually do

Why the Gap?

- Seriousness of bone health issues incompletely recognized or inadequately implemented
- Lack of consistency in bone health policy
- Lack of resources



What is NOF doing?

Supporting federal legislation

- S. 1096 / H.R. 2020
Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act
- S. 966
Bone Health Promotion and Research Act



S. 1096 / H.R. 2020

Preservation of Access to Osteoporosis Testing for Medicare Beneficiaries Act



- Restores Medicare reimbursement rates for DXA testing
- Improves access to bone density testing
- Prevents debilitating and costly fractures

Projected Growth in Fracture Costs

From 2005 to 2025

- Fractures will increase to about 3 million
- Costs will increase from about \$17 billion to about \$25 billion

Overall	↑ 49%
Caucasian	↑ 37%
African American	↑ 70%
Hispanic	↑ 179%
Other	↑ 179%



S. 966 Bone Health Promotion and Research Act



Builds a bone health program to:

- Integrate and augment education and outreach initiatives
- Coordinate comprehensive state osteoporosis surveillance and prevention programs
- Facilitate the collection, analysis and reporting of data
- Expand research on osteoporosis and related bone diseases

To Support Federal Legislation



- Join the NOF Healthy Bones Advocacy Network
- Contact your Members of Congress through NOF's Advocacy Action Center
- Go to: www.nof.org/advocacy

To Support Better Bone Health in Your State

- Introduce an Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month resolution
- Team up to hold a state advocacy day
- Introduce legislation to assess bone health in the state and increase awareness and education
- Fund state public and professional education and awareness initiatives
- Participate in and promote a bone health walk



To Support Better Bone Health in Your State

- Host a Town Hall Meeting
- Host a Health Fair
- Write a Dear Colleague letter to support current legislation
- Urge colleagues and friends to join the NOF Healthy Bones Advocacy Network – www.nof.org/advocacy
- Review the Women in Government Web site for additional ideas - www.womeningovernment.org



To Contact NOF

(800) 231-4222

Roberta.biegel@nof.org

Thank you

