

# The Importance of CF Advocacy



## CF ADVOCACY AND THE BETTER CARE RECONCILIATION ACT

In 2017, the U.S. Senate was considering the Better Care Reconciliation Act (BCRA), a bill that would have made accessing adequate, affordable care more difficult for people with CF. In the days before the vote, a woman in Maine approached Sen. Susan Collins at a Fourth of July parade. In their conversation, she told Sen. Collins about her grandson, who has CF, and her fears that he wouldn't be able to get the care he needs to stay healthy if the bill were to pass. When the vote came to the floor, Senator Collins voted "no," — one of the deciding votes that defeated the bill — and cited that conversation as a major influence on her decision.

Your voice matters. One conversation can make all the difference.

[www.cff.org](http://www.cff.org)

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**Federal and state governments play a vital role in CF research, drug development, and the ability of people with CF to access the care and therapies they need. You have the power to inspire action and help shape public policy. Learn how you can help make a difference.**

At every level of government, CF advocates work with policymakers to ensure that the needs of the CF community are understood and any laws put into place help people with CF access the adequate, affordable care they need to stay healthy.

That's why we need to make our voice heard. Every day, the CF Foundation advocates for:

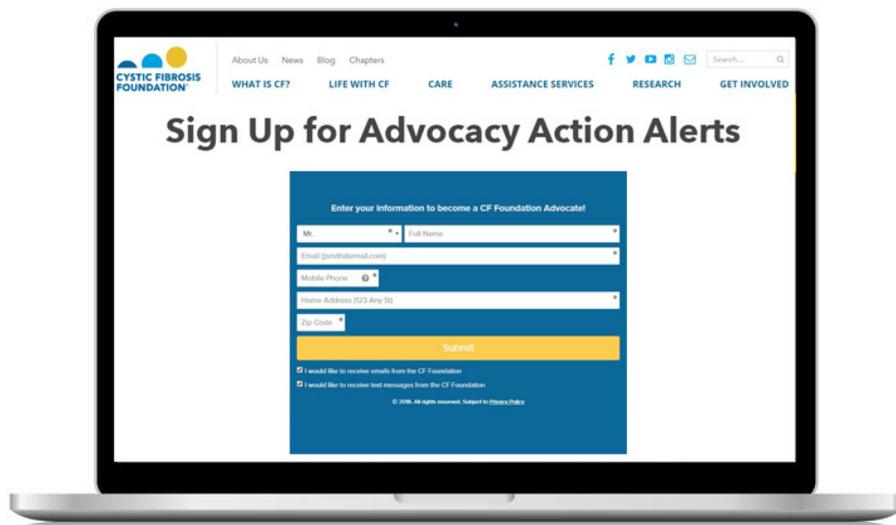
- Adequate, affordable health insurance for people with CF
- Robust FDA and NIH funding to support new breakthroughs in CF

Your voice has the power to inspire action and help shape public policy. You can join the fight to cure CF and add tomorrows for people living with the disease, today.

# Get Involved in CF Advocacy!

No matter where you live, your age, or your health, there are many ways you can join CF advocates across the country to fight for people with CF and ensure they can get the specialized care they need to stay healthy.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is currently working with advocates across the country to ensure that both state and federal policymakers know what our community needs. To be an advocate, all you need is a passion for helping people with CF and the willingness to make your voice heard. Here's how you can join the fight today:



"I love to stand up in front of other doctors, students, philanthropists, and anyone else who's interested in my disease and tell my story. For people with CF, our story is the most powerful tool we have to stand up for ourselves and fight for what we need," wrote Mara Cray, an adult with CF and longtime advocate, in a March blog post for the CF Community Blog on [cff.org](http://cff.org)



## 1. SIGN UP FOR ADVOCACY ALERTS

By texting **FIGHTCF** to **96387**, you can stay in the loop with the Foundation and how we're fighting for people with CF. You'll receive periodic communication about upcoming legislation, how to contact Congress, and how you can get involved.\*



## 2. ATTEND A CF FOUNDATION ADVOCACY EVENT

Every year, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation holds several advocacy events, like March on the Hill and Teen Advocacy Day, that help advocates from across the country meet face-to-face with their representatives and talk about the needs of the CF community. State Advocacy Days are also held at several state capitols. If you're interested in participating in an advocacy event, email [publicpolicy@cff.org](mailto:publicpolicy@cff.org).



## 3. WRITE AN EDITORIAL

A letter to the editor is a short opinion piece published in your local newspaper written by members of the community. The opinion section is one of the most widely-read sections of the newspaper, so this is a great way to influence both your community and your elected representatives. To learn more about writing an op-ed, email [publicpolicy@cff.org](mailto:publicpolicy@cff.org).

\*Message and data rates may apply. Text STOP to stop. Text HELP for help.