



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

GREETINGS:

It gives me great pleasure to join with the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade to recognize National Action Week, October 12-20, 2006.

In Pennsylvania, arthritis affects more than 3.5 million people and costs the commonwealth more than \$4 billion a year. While the specific causes of arthritis are not yet known for most forms of the disease, researchers have made tremendous strides in fighting arthritis and other Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD). The biomedical research community in the United States is recognized as the world leader in discovering, developing, and promoting new knowledge and ideas that foster better health and the treatment of disease. Our commonwealth's pioneering leadership will continue to lead the future as we address the important challenges that lie ahead.

I am greatly encouraged by the efforts of the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade and all those who have joined forces to fight arthritis and other musculoskeletal conditions. The work you do to educate the public about musculoskeletal disorders, advocate for patients, and support research has made a great impact on the medical community, thus improving the lives of countless individuals. It is my hope that you will continue to find success in your mission and bring us all a little closer to finding a cure.

On behalf of all Pennsylvanians, I thank the U.S. Bone and Joint Decade for your devotion to National Action Week 2006 as well as your year-round efforts for this important cause. Best wishes for a productive and successful campaign.



Edward G. Rendell

EDWARD G. RENDELL
Governor
October 12-20, 2006