



# "Together we make a difference!"

## 2022 Albany Days Recap!

What an amazing Albany Days program! We're so grateful for the wonderful group of advocates who came to learn and prepare for an intense day of advocating and sharing their stories in our state capitol! Here's a quick recap of this year's program:

**READY Program** – This year we decided to try something different and open up the READY Program to not only teens and their parents, but also to adults interested in learning more about advocacy. Dorcas, our MC for the weekend, kicked the program off Saturday with some fun icebreakers to get the group excited for the weekend. Next we learned how Advocacy is All Around Us with Lindsay from HFA, followed up by virtual visit with our new friend Walter from Idaho, who generously shared with us some of his experiences living with hemophilia and introduced our Story Sticks craft project, which allowed everyone a chance to reflect on their own personal experiences. We



came back together bright and early Sunday morning to learn the ABC's of Advocacy and then practiced our ABC's by making the case for an Official State Breakfast Cereal to "Senator" Josie! We closed out the READY Program with an introduction to the issues we would be advocating for at our legislative office meetings Monday.



**ASK Program** – Sunday afternoon brought all the Albany Days attendees together for a deeper dive into this year's issues and an opportunity to work on our "game plans" for the next day's meetings, along with some fun activities and a chance to get to know our fellow advocates. By Sunday dinner, we were prepped and READY to ASK our legislators for their support!

**Taking it to the Capitol** - With the help of our amazing group leaders, we had a total of 30 meetings with legislators and staff, as well as many special visitors to our display table! Not only did our advocates make a difference by sharing their stories and asking for support for the copay accumulator and prior authorization bills, but they also raised awareness for bleeding disorders and Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month!



Thank you to all this year's attendees for their hard work



and willingness to share their personal stories in order to advocate for all New Yorkers with bleeding disorders! Every meeting and new co-sponsor, every bookmark and brochure handed out, every personal experience shared, and every social media post matters.



**Special thanks to Senator Kennedy & Assemblywoman Joyner for their continued support of NYSBDC & Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month!**