

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 17, 2014

Braley Introduces Legislation to Provide Access to Treatment to Lymphedema Patients

Dubuque-area doctor helps bring urgency of issue to the attention of Congressman Braley

Washington, D.C. – This week, Rep. Bruce Braley (IA-01) introduced the *Lymphedema Treatment Act*, to ensure that treatment would be affordable and available to the millions of Americans who suffer from the condition.

Dubuque-area pediatrician Julie Hanson, whose daughter Sophie requires treatment for lymphedema, helped bring the issue of the Medicare coverage gap to the attention of Braley's office. **“The risks and complications lymphedema causes can be helped by treatment, but we need to make sure that treatment is available to those who need it,” Braley said. “Ensuring Medicare covers the supplies needed for treatment would be a huge victory for those fighting this disease—and is a common-sense way to help improve their lives.”**

Due to the painful swelling that results from lymphedema, compression therapy is an essential component of treatment but compression supplies are not covered by Medicare despite being an ongoing necessity. The Lymphedema Treatment Act closes this coverage gap by requiring Medicare to cover lymphedema compression items.

Lymphedema is a chronic condition resulting from damaged or inadequate lymph nodes or lymphatic vessels that affects millions of Americans. It is a disease that one can be born with but it is most often caused by cancer treatments that damage the body's lymph system or immune functions.

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