



The Lymphedema Treatment Act

SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

- American Medical Association
- American Cancer Society
- Oncology Nursing Society
- American Acad. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- American Physical Therapy Association
- Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society
- National Patient Advocate Foundation
- LIVESTRONG
- Colon Cancer Alliance
- Susan G. Komen
- Ovarian Cancer National Alliance
- American Lymphedema Framework Project
- Lymphatic Education and Research Network
- Lymphology Association of North America
- National Lymphedema Network

GETTING INVOLVED:

Act now to pass the LTA! Ask your members of Congress to support this bill. Our advocacy tools make it quick and easy.



Please visit our [website to learn more.](http://LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org)



WHY THIS LEGISLATION IS NEEDED:

Lymphedema (chronic lymphatic system failure) has a multitude of causes. It is marked by an accumulation of lymph fluid (swelling) in parts of the body where lymph nodes or lymphatic vessels are damaged or inadequate. Millions of Americans are affected by this chronic but treatable condition, most commonly from cancer.

Untreated or under-treated lymphedema becomes progressive, leading to increased morbidity, thus placing a costly burden on patients and the health care system. These risks and higher costs can be effectively mitigated with proper, consistent treatment. Complete Decongestive Therapy (CDT) is the standard of care for lymphedema, and is a multi-modal treatment that is only effective when used in its entirety.

Medicare does not cover an essential component of CDT, the compression supplies used daily in lymphedema treatment, citing they do not fit under any existing benefit category. As a result, many patients suffer from recurrent infections, progressive degradation in their condition and eventual disability because they cannot access the compression supplies required to treat their condition. Compression is to lymphedema what medication is to many other diseases – indispensable!

WHAT THIS LEGISLATION WILL DO:

The Lymphedema Treatment Act (LTA) is a federal bill that aims to improve insurance coverage for the medically necessary, doctor-prescribed compression supplies that are the cornerstone of lymphedema treatment. Although this bill will only change Medicare law, it will set a standard for Medicaid and private insurance to follow.

Specific goals are:

- to enable coverage for compression, an essential component of complete lymphedema treatment, including gradient compression garments, bandages and devices;
- to support patients' adherence to their maintenance phase of treatment by covering their doctor-prescribed supplies;
- to reduce the total healthcare costs associated with lymphedema by decreasing the incidence of complications, co-morbidities and disabilities resulting from this disease.