



LIGHTHOUSE LYMPHEDEMA NETWORK
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May 20, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter
2432 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
1707 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Schakowsky, Carter, Blumenauer, and Kelly,

On behalf of the lymphedema patients across the United States, the Lighthouse Lymphedema Network thanks you for your leadership in introducing **H.R. 1948, the Lymphedema Treatment Act**.

The Lighthouse Lymphedema Network was founded in Roswell, GA, in 1994. It is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization of individuals who are lymphedema patients, family members, therapists, caregivers, or who have a genuine interest in lymphedema. Our goal is to educate, promote awareness, and provide support for lymphedema patients, the medical community, family and caregivers, insurance companies, the general public, and other lymphedema support groups.

Lymphedema is a medical condition affecting an estimated 1.5 to 3 million Medicare beneficiaries who are not currently receiving treatment from Medicare according to the current medical standard of care. What is worse is that Medicare is spending billions of dollars every year treating largely preventable lymphedema-related cellulitis infections.

Lymphedema is incurable, progressive, and, if left untreated, the swollen area(s) can become fibrotic and prone to serious, debilitating infections. Over time, untreated lymphedema results in disfigurement, disability, and even death.

The Lighthouse Lymphedema Network applauds your effort to close this coverage gap so that lymphedema patients can access the compression treatment supplies needed to manage this chronic condition. Please contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

Joan White, Director
Lighthouse Lymphedema Network