May 7, 2021

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  The Honorable Chuck Grassley
511 Hart Senate Office Building  135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

RE: The Lymphedema Treatment Act

Dear Senators Cantwell and Grassley:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for the Lymphedema Treatment Act, S.1315, and to thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation. Amending the Medicare statute to enable coverage for prescribed medical compression garments will help millions of Americans with lymphedema access the care they need to manage this chronic disease.

Medical compression garments are the essential cornerstone of treatment for lymphedema. Numerous studies and an abundance of real-world data have demonstrated that the use of prescribed medical compression garments significantly improves health and quality of life for patients through reduced incidence of infections, hospitalizations, and other costly yet preventable complications.

Lymphedema affects an estimated 3-5 million men, women, and children, with 1.5-3 million being Medicare beneficiaries. The most common cause is cancer treatments that remove or damage lymph nodes – affecting 40% of breast cancer survivors and 15% of cancer survivors overall – and as survivorship increases, so too do the number of cases of lymphedema.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further limited access to care for lymphedema patients, and many have experienced a worsening of their condition. Closing this unintended Medicare coverage gap and ensuring that this at-risk population has access to the medical supplies necessary to safely and effectively manage this chronic disease has never been more crucial.

Thank you again for your support and leadership on this important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that this bipartisan and broadly supported bill is enacted into law during the 117th Congress.
Sincerely,

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Cancer Society / Cancer Action Network
American Lymphedema Framework Project
American Medical Association
American Nurses Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
Association of American Cancer Institutes
Breast Cancer Action
Cancer Legal Care
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Disability Rights Legal Center
Greet the Day
Lighthouse Lymphedema Network
Lipedema Foundation
Living Beyond Breast Cancer
Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance
Lymphedema Advocacy Group
Lymphatic Education and Research Network
Lymphology Association of North America
Minnesota State Retiree Council, AFL-CIO
National Comprehensive Cancer Network
National Lymphedema Network
Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center –
    James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute
Oncology Nursing Society
Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance
Phelan McDermid Syndrome Foundation
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society for Vascular Nursing
Susan G. Komen
Moffitt Cancer Center
Penn Medicine, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Vermont Cancer Center
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society