

May 7, 2021

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

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
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