



October 24, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leaders Schumer and Pelosi:

On behalf of the 1.5 million Medicare beneficiaries living with chronic lymphatic system failure (lymphedema), the undersigned organizations urge you to pass the Lymphedema Treatment Act ("LTA"), H.R. 930 / S. 497, before the 115th Congress adjourns.

Lymphedema, like other chronic conditions, has no cure, but its effects can be mitigated through proper management. For example, the use of cost-effective medical compression has been proven to reduce complications, resulting in fewer hospitalizations and a decrease in physician and therapy office visits.

As policymakers strive to help beneficiaries live healthier and more productive lives, we encourage you to pass this legislation that has been supported by over 440 Members of Congress. The bill will address the growing number of cancer-related secondary cases, as well as those beneficiaries who acquired lymphedema from other causes or who are born with a compromised lymphatic system.

Compression therapy is the cornerstone in the standard of care for lymphedema, and the LTA is a common-sense solution that closes an unintended gap in Medicare coverage. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) acknowledged the necessity of compression therapy in the treatment of lymphedema in its National Coverage Determination for Pneumatic Compression Pumps.

The federal government recognized its importance when it included coverage for compression garments for the treatment of breast cancer-related lymphedema in the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998. Furthermore, lymphedema compression supplies are already covered by Veterans Affairs, TriCare, and Medicaid plans in 44 states plus the District of Columbia.

Multiple peer-reviewed studies confirm that compression garments and supplies improve patient outcomes while reducing overall healthcare costs. It's time to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with lymphedema have coverage for these vital, prescription medical supplies. It is imperative that Congress pass the LTA before the 115th Congress adjourns.

Sincerely,



Heather Ferguson
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Together with the following organizations and hospitals:

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Cancer Society
American Medical Association
American Occupational Therapy Association
American Physical Therapy Association
Breast Cancer Action
Cancer Legal Care
Cancer Legal Resources Center
Lipedema Foundation
Lighthouse Lymphedema Network
Living Beyond Breast Cancer
Lymphedema Advocacy Group
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
National Lymphedema Network
Northwest Lymphedema Center
Oncology Nursing Society
Susan G. Komen
Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society

Boston Children's Hospital Vascular Anomalies Center
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Huntsman Cancer Institute
Moffitt Cancer Center
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University
University of Vermont Cancer Center