

June 4, 2021

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
1111 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Lymphedema Treatment Act

Dear Representatives Schakowsky, Carter, Blumenauer, and Kelly:

The undersigned organizations write to express our support for the Lymphedema Treatment Act, H.R.3630, 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,

Alliance of Dedicated Cancer Centers
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
American Association of Nurse Practitioners
American Cancer Society / Cancer Action Network
American College of Surgeons
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

RASopathies Network

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