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May 16, 2019

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

The Honorable Todd Young
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cantwell and Young:

The legislation addressing the Lymphedema Treatment Act, S.518, is of interest to 3M. Three to five million Americans suffer lymphatic dysfunction and chronic lymphedema. Lymphedema is chronic swelling, most typically seen in the upper and lower extremities. When left untreated, lymphedema places increased financial burden on the United States health care system. Patients experience decreased quality of life due to skin integrity challenges, weeping and draining legs, increased risk of cellulitis or infections requiring frequent hospitalizations, decreased activity, inability to work, depression, social isolation, and financial challenges. Although this disease is not curable, it is treatable. Evidence-based, best practice care identifies compression therapy as the most critical component of lymphedema treatment.

Although compression therapy is identified as the most important component to effectively treat lymphedema, the supplies required to deliver compression – bandages, multi-level wraps, and garments are not covered by Medicare and many private insurance companies. The Lymphedema Treatment Act supports the coverage of these supplies.

3M supports this legislation to give patients access to the evidence-based products that include compression therapy supplies and garments required to treat and control the devastating effects of this disease. 3M believes passage of this legislation will improve patient's adherence to their treatment plan, decrease patient complications and hospitalizations, and improve overall quality of life for these patients.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd M. Fruchterman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Todd M. Fruchterman, MD, PhD