

September 27, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Support for H.R. 1948, the *Lymphedema Treatment Act***

Dear Representative Schakowsky:

On behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA), I write to thank you for sponsoring H.R. 1948, the *Lymphedema Treatment Act*. This bill will improve insurance coverage for compression supplies that are critical for lymphedema treatment.

Lymphedema is a chronic condition affecting millions of Americans that is most often caused by cancer treatments that damage the body's lymph system or immune functions. Due to the painful swelling that results from lymphedema, compression therapy is an essential component of treatment. However, compression supplies are not covered by Medicare. Your common-sense legislation would close this coverage gap by requiring Medicare to cover lymphedema compression items under the Part B durable medical equipment benefit.

ANA is the premier organization representing the interests of the nation's 4 million registered nurses (RNs) through its constituent and state nurses associations, organizational affiliates, and individual members. RNs serve in multiple direct care, care coordination, and administrative leadership roles, across the full spectrum of health care settings. RNs provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. ANA members also include those practicing in the four advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) roles: nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives and certified registered nurse anesthetists.<sup>1</sup> ANA is dedicated to partnering with health care consumers to improve practices, policies, delivery models, outcomes, and access across the health care continuum.

ANA appreciates your leadership on this important issue. We stand ready to work with you and your staff. If ANA can be of any assistance, please contact Ingrida Lusic, Vice President of Policy and Government Affairs at [Ingrid.lusic@ana.org](mailto:Ingrid.lusic@ana.org).

Sincerely,



Debbie Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Chief Nursing Officer/EVP

cc: Ernest Grant, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANA President  
Loressa Cole, DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, FACHE, ANA Chief Executive Officer

---

<sup>1</sup>The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation defines four APRN roles: certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife and certified registered nurse anesthetist. In addition to defining the four roles, the Consensus Model describes the APRN regulatory model, identifies the titles to be used, defines specialty, describes the emergence of new roles and population foci, and presents strategies for implementation.