

**BREAST
CANCER
ACTION**

May 7, 2019

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

Dear Senator Cantwell,

I am writing to offer Breast Cancer Action's formal endorsement of S.518, The Lymphedema Treatment Act.

Breast Cancer Action is a national, feminist, grassroots education and activist organization whose mission is to achieve health justice for all women at risk of and living with breast cancer. We are committed to ensuring that women living with a breast cancer diagnosis have access to needed treatments, including treatment for lymphedema.

For women diagnosed with breast cancer, the financial toll can quickly become yet another devastating side-effect of the disease. Health care coverage of breast cancer treatments should certainly extend to the ongoing health effects related to those treatments, including lymphedema.

All women should have access to needed treatment. Breast Cancer Action and allied organizations have been working to pass The Lymphedema Treatment Act for nearly 10 years, and as we wait for it to pass, women continue to go without medically necessary devices and equipment or make difficult choices between this equipment and other needs. Socio-economic status shouldn't mean that women with the debilitating effects of lymphedema get blocked from access to needed equipment and treatment.

On behalf of Breast Cancer Action's tens of thousands of members, thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation, and we look forward to its swift passage.

Sincerely,



Karuna Jaggar
Executive Director