



DANA-FARBER
CANCER INSTITUTE



BRIGHAM AND
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



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May 21, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Buddy Carter
2432 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
1111 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Kelly
1707 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Representatives Schakowsky, Carter, Blumenauer, and Kelly:

On behalf of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, I want to thank you for introducing the Lymphedema Treatment Act, H.R.1948, which requires Medicare coverage of compression supplies used to treat lymphedema under the durable medical equipment benefit.

Dana-Farber is one of only ten NCI-designated, freestanding comprehensive cancer centers in the country and plays a leading role in making life-changing breakthroughs in cancer research and patient care. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue and believe passage of this legislation would bring significant benefits to the patients and families we serve at Dana-Farber.

As you know, lymphedema is the accumulation of lymph fluid (swelling) where lymph nodes or lymphatic vessels have been removed or damaged, most often as a result of cancer treatment, such as surgery or radiation therapy. Lymphedema can be progressive, leading to complications, comorbidities, loss of function, and disability, which can result in long term physical and psychosocial survivorship issues. Effective management of lymphedema through use of compression garments are critical to supporting cancer patients and enhancing their overall health and quality of life. As a result, H.R.1948 would provide meaningful benefits to

Hon. Jan Schakowsky
Hon. Buddy Carter
Hon. Earl Blumenauer
Hon. Mike Kelly
May 21, 2019
Page 2

cancer patients and survivors in increasing the accessibility and affordability of medically necessary treatment supplies.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to help advance these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CAB', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Craig A. Bunnell, MD, MPH, MBA
Chief Medical Officer
DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

CAB/lmfc