



**DANA-FARBER**  
CANCER INSTITUTE



BRIGHAM AND  
WOMEN'S HOSPITAL



Craig A. Bunnell, MD, MPH, MBA  
Chief Medical Officer  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
Harvard Medical School

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
450 Brookline Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215-5450  
617.632.5024 tel  
617.582.7328 fax  
[www.dana-farber.org](http://www.dana-farber.org)

May 21, 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:

On behalf of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, I want to thank you for introducing the Lymphedema Treatment Act, S.518, 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, S.518 would provide meaningful benefits to cancer patients and survivors in increasing the accessibility and affordability of medically necessary treatment supplies.

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
The Honorable Todd Young  
May 21, 2019  
Page 2

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 large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

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

CAB/lmfc