



June 27, 2019

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*The EveryLife Foundation for
Rare Diseases is a 501(c)3 organization
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Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
1111 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Buddy Carter
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mike Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Schakowsky, Carter, Blumenauer, Kelly:

On behalf of the EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases, thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 1948, the Lymphedema Treatment Act. The EveryLife Foundation is a nonprofit dedicated to advancing the development of treatment and diagnostic opportunities for rare disease patients through science-based public policy.

We strongly support the Lymphedema Treatment Act which would provide a Medicare benefit category for coverage of the physician-prescribed compression supplies used in the treatment and management of lymphedema.

Lymphedema is chronic swelling (edema) caused by a build-up of fluid (lymph) that occurs when the lymphatic system is either faulty or damaged and is associated with over 40 rare diseases. There is no cure for lymphedema, but it can be effectively treated.

Compression is to lymphedema as insulin is to diabetes. Compression treats the disease and prevents complication, enabling patients to remain healthy and productive while reducing overall healthcare expense.

Currently, Medicare does not cover these critically necessary compression supplies as they are not classified under any existing Medicare benefits category.

Without compression garments, the disease progresses, often resulting in hospitalization for life-threatening cellulitis infections. Compression stockings are the most effective and least expensive treatment to control the disease and can save overall health care dollars.

Thank you for supporting the Lymphedema Treatment act which would help prevent the needless suffering of millions of Americans who have lymphedema, improve the quality of their lives and reduce overall healthcare costs.

Sincerely,

Julia Jenkins
Executive Director