



In the Words of our Supporters



"On behalf of millions of cancer patients, survivors and their families, the **American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) commends the reintroduction of the Lymphedema Treatment Act** . . .

Patient access to medical supplies that help treat this disease and improve quality of life is imperative. We look forward to working with Congress to advance this legislation and make sure Medicare covers all necessary medical supplies for the treatment of lymphedema."

— Lisa A. Lacasse, President, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network



"Any woman who has breast cancer surgery and lymph nodes removed is **at risk for developing lymphedema, and she remains at risk for the rest of her life**. Without adequate coverage, women are exposed to significant out-of-pocket costs in pursuing treatment for lymphedema. These costs create barriers for some women, depriving them of the tools they need to adhere to the standard treatment regimen and putting them at risk for infection, hospitalization and further health problems."

— Jennifer M. Luray, President, Komen Advocacy Alliance



"Medicare beneficiaries with lymphedema currently lack coverage for compression therapy, **an essential component of care they must use to manage their chronic disease**. As a result, many patients are not receiving appropriate and evidence-based treatment, which results in a decline in their health status and quality of life."

— James L. Madara, MD, Executive Vice President, CEO, American Medical Association



"The Academy applauds the effort of this legislation to **ensure access to vital compression garments** for lymphedema patients seeking to improve and maintain daily function."

— Jennifer Zumsteg, MD, Chair, Health Policy & Legislation Committee, AAPM&R



"Enabling Medicare to cover lymphedema compression supplies will improve quality of life for patients suffering from the painful side effects of cancer. 'The Lymphedema Act' **will empower oncology nurses who manage treatment of side effects to be more effective caregivers** and ultimately will result in more successful outcomes for patients with cancer nationwide."

— Laura Fennimore RN, DNP, NEA-BC, President of the Oncology Nursing Society



"Compression therapy is considered **the gold standard for treatment of lymphedema**. Lack of access results in many beneficiaries suffering from recurrent infections, progressive degradation in their condition and, too often, disability."

— Carolyn Watts, MSN, RN, CWON, President, Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society



"We **commend this legislation's purpose** to provide Medicare coverage and payment for lymphedema treatment items and supplies. . . . While there is no cure for this condition, early detection, treatment, and management can help alleviate symptoms."

— Sharon L. Dunn, PT, PhD, OCS, President, American Physical Therapy Association



"Patients who are unable to afford the supplies **suffer from recurring infections, chronic inflammation, further lymph vessel damage, and experience a lower quality of life** and a lack of independence."

— Abe Saffer, Legislative Representative, Congressional Affairs, OTA, Inc.