



Lymphedema Treatment Act

S.1315 / H.R.3630

Supporters Include:

- American Cancer Society
- Susan G. Komen
- American Medical Association
- American Acad. Of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- American Nurses Association
- Oncology Nursing Society
- Wound Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- Association of American Cancer Institutes
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network

Original Sponsors:

Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

Rep Jan Schakowsky (D-IL-9)
Rep Buddy Carter (R-GA-1)
Rep Earl Blumenauer (D-OR-3)
Rep Mike Kelly (R-PA-16)

Contacts:

David Marten (Cantwell)
David_Marten@cantwell.senate.gov
202-224-3441

Nic Pottebaum (Grassley)
Nic_Pottebaum@grassley.senate.gov
202-224-3744

Gidget Benitez (Schakowsky)
Gidget.Benitez@mail.house.gov
202-225-2111

Jack Ganter (Buddy Carter)
Jack.Ganter@mail.house.gov
202-225-5831

ABOUT LYMPHEDEMA:

Lymphedema (chronic lymphatic system failure) has a multitude of causes and is the end result of *any* significant impairment to all or part of the lymphatic organ system. It is marked by an accumulation of lymph fluid (swelling) in parts of the body where lymph nodes or lymphatic vessels are damaged or inadequate.

An estimated 3-5 million¹ Americans are affected by this chronic but treatable condition, most commonly from cancer, with 1.5-3 million being Medicare beneficiaries. A growing number of men, women, and children are affected by lymphedema as cancer survivorship increases.

Untreated or inadequately treated lymphedema is progressive, leading to complications, comorbidities, loss of function, disability, and in some cases death. Compression therapy is the essential cornerstone of treatment, without which patients cannot effectively manage this chronic condition.

WHY THIS LEGISLATION IS NEEDED:

Starting in 2001, the Medicare program issued an advisory on the importance of compression garments. A year later, a National Coverage Determination was published highlighting such garments as part of a conservative treatment regimen intended to reduce and control lymphedema-related swelling. To date, HHS acknowledges the importance of compression supplies and indicates that **legislative authority is needed**.

Please note: **The Lymphedema Treatment Act was passed in the House during the 116th Congress as part of H.R.3.**

WHAT THIS LEGISLATION WILL DO:

- ✓ Provide for Medicare coverage of prescribed medical compression garments used in the treatment and management of lymphedema.
- ✓ Enable lymphedema patients to maintain their overall health, activities of daily living, and quality of life.
- ✓ Reduce the total healthcare costs associated with this disease by decreasing the incidence of complications, comorbidities, disabilities, and hospitalizations.
- ✓ Align Medicare coverage with existing Federal precedent established by TriCare, Veterans Affairs, and Federal BCBS, all of which provide coverage for these supplies.

More information is available at:

LymphedemaTreatmentAct.org



1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3652571/#R1>