

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Janice Schakowsky
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Todd Young
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Buddy Carter
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida, thank you for your leadership in introducing the Lymphedema Treatment Act (S518/HR1948). As one of the nation's leading cancer treatment centers, we applaud your efforts to improve coverage for the compression supplies that are vital to lymphedema treatment.

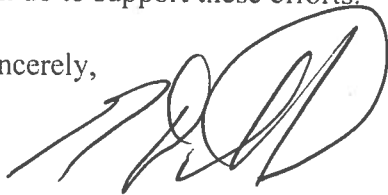
Lymphedema is most commonly caused by the removal of or damage to lymph nodes through surgery, radiation, or cancer itself. Lymphedema can occur immediately following treatment, or not until months or years later, contributing to long-term physical and psychosocial issues.

Approximately 15% of all survivors are affected by lymphedema. While there is no cure, it can be effectively treated. When untreated or under-treated, lymphedema is progressive, leading to complications, comorbidities, loss of function, and disability.

Effective management of lymphedema through the use of compression garments and supplies is critical to supporting patients and enabling them to maintain their health and quality of life. This legislation would provide meaningful benefits to cancer patients and survivors by increasing the accessibility and affordability of these doctor-prescribed medical supplies.

Thank you again for your leadership on the important issue. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to support these efforts.

Sincerely,



G. Douglas Letson, MD
Executive Vice President
Physician in Chief
Moffitt Medical Group President
Moffitt Cancer Center