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June 20, 2019

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

The Honorable Jan 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 the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, we thank you for introducing the Lymphedema Treatment Act (S.518/H.R.1948), which seeks to improve access of medical supplies vital to lymphedema treatment and management. We applaud your efforts in advocating for this important issue as Lymphedema affects an estimated 3-5 million men, women, and children in the United States.

Lymphedema is a chronic and potentially progressive condition which is characterized by swelling and discomfort, often seen in patients undergoing cancer treatment given the removal of or damage to lymph nodes. At Sylvester, our mission is to alleviate the burden of cancer through compassionate, patient-centric care, and we believe policies like this will help support patients and enable them to maintain a healthier quality of life.

While there is no cure, Lymphedema can be effectively managed and treated by increasing the accessibility and affordability of these prescribed medical supplies of bandages and compression garments. This legislation lessens the opportunity for lack of treatment which can otherwise result in worsening symptoms and an increase in complications, comorbidities, loss of function, and disability.

Thank you again for your leadership on this meaningful legislation. We support your continued efforts in advocating for the successful passage of the Lymphedema Treatment Act.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Nimer, M.D.