

Designated a comprehensive cancer center by the National Cancer Institute

☎ 919-966-3036 · 📠 919-962-8472

April 11, 2019

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

The Honorable Todd Young
400 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cantwell and Young:

On behalf of The UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center (UNC LCCC), thank you for reintroducing the Lymphedema Treatment Act, S.518, which provides Medicare coverage of compression items as durable medical equipment. UNC LCCC supports this important piece of legislation.

As you are aware, lymphedema is swelling of tissues resulting from blockage of the lymphatic system. It is most commonly caused by removal or damage to lymph nodes as part of cancer treatment from surgery, to radiation or the cancer itself. Lymphedema can occur months to years after cancer treatment has been completed, contributing to long term physical and psychosocial survivorship issues. Complications include infections or even a soft tissue cancer, both of which may be mitigated with treatment, making S.518/H.R.1948 important to cancer survivors to improve access to care and affordability of treatment.

The UNC LCCC is one of the nation's premier cancer centers for the prevention, detection and treatment of cancer. The UNC LCCC is a top-ranked center in the United States designated by the National Cancer Institute as a Comprehensive Cancer Center. In particular, we have a large and vibrant program in breast oncology, and many patients in this program would benefit from better lymphedema care. We thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



H. Shelton Earp, III, MD
Director, UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
Director, UNC Cancer Care
Lineberger Professor of Cancer Research
Professor of Medicine & Pharmacology