

Lymphedema Patient Advocates of WA

LEPatientAdvocate@gmail.com



WA-State team of advocates at LTA's Lobby Days in DC, Nov 2011: Lynn Fass, Talia Frombach, Elaine Eigeman & Debbie Frombach



WA-State Team of Lymphedema Patient Advocates

❖ **This is our story.** (We did this.)

⊙ **This is our goal.** (We must do this.)

☑ **How you can help.** (We need you.)

❖ **WA-State Team went to Washington DC with a book of your letters and our stories.**

The WA-State Team of Lymphedema Patient Advocates went to DC in 2011 to advocate for the [Lymphedema Treatment Act \(LTA\)](#). We took 60 letters from voters all across WA and met all with of our House and Senate offices. *Photos:* Our team at Congressional Staff Briefing & at US Capitol.

We used a book of your letters and 6 photo essays, together with our own compression-covered limbs, to teach health legislative aides about patients' need for this bill. We showed how compression garments and supplies are medically essential parts of our daily treatment to control chronic swelling.

❖ **We identified a new priority to broaden our base of support.**

We learned much about the climate in DC in which members are locked in battles over ideology and spending. [Rep. Jim McDermott](#) (D-WA-7) co-sponsored the bill. We came home knowing that we must secure support in the [Republican majority in the House of Representatives](#) and in two Committees to which the bill had been assigned: Ways & Means and Energy & Commerce.

❖ **WA-State Team found a new Lead Sponsor for the LTA.**

In Jan 2012, we met with [Rep. Dave Reichert](#) (R-WA-8), asking him to advocate in the Ways & Means - Health subcommittee. He led an effort to get Medicare policy change and appealed to HHS Secretary Sibelius. She answered that legislation to amend the Social Security Act is needed to enable a legal benefit category for compression supplies. After lead sponsor Rep. Larry Kissell lost the 2012 election, Mr. Reichert agreed to lead the LTA and gather bipartisan co-leads.



You can make a difference!

Join the team. Advocate for lymphedema patients.

WA-State Team of Patient Advocates with WA-8
Congressman Reichert:
Lynn Fass, Talia Frombach,
Elaine Eigeman, Carol Eddy
and Julia Overstreet

❖ **Revised LTA now introduced in the 113th Congress with bipartisan co-leads.**

In 2013, Mr. Reichert led LTA revisions to focus **exclusively on compression garments, bandages, devices and supplies**. He gathered co-leads from NJ, IA & OR who sit on the key committees of jurisdiction, Ways & Means and the Energy & Commerce and their health subcommittees. On Jan. 15, 2014, Mr. Reichert introduced the LTA in the 113th Congress as **HR 3877**, supported by 3 bipartisan co-leads.

⊙ **NEW GOAL: We must rally widespread support to PASS the LTA into law.**

We must now help move the LTA through committees to the House floor for a vote to pass it. We must garner broad support for the LTA by all Members of this Congress. LTA state teams need thousands of lymphedema patients, families, friends, therapists, medical providers and DME fitters to step up to advocate for us before Congress.

☑ **YOU CAN HELP ADVOCATE** for lymphedema patients.

We created an [easy template letter](#) for advocates to easily ask their Representatives to co-sponsor the LTA. We will gather hundreds of constituent advocates in all 10 WA Districts and we will help other states gather letters from everyone we know.

☑ **ASK your Representative to co-sponsor and help to PASS the LTA.**

☑ **SPREAD your INFLUENCE. We need your help** to gather support.

ASK all caring people you know to write advocacy letters. **Download this PDF and forward** it to your personal+medical networks. Ask all who care about you and lymphedema patients to write to Congress. You will help us **reach from one person to another**, finding thousands in every state who will help us pass this law.

☑ **JOIN** your state team. **Contact us:** To help our WA-State Team or to be directed to another state's team: **Elaine Eigeman**, 206-525-0181 Email: LEPatientAdvocate@gmail.com