June 21, 2023

The Honorable Donald Payne, Jr.
106 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jefferson Van Drew
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Smith
2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Donald Payne, Jr.,

We write in support of the Amputation Reduction and Compassion ("ARC") Act (H.R. XXXX). This crucial piece of federal legislation seeks to address rising rates of preventable amputations that occur every day in the United States. In doing so, and in preventing these unnecessary amputations, this legislation presents a real opportunity to save lives.

Despite numerous medical advances over the past decade, rates of amputations are on the rise. In fact, every three minutes in America, a person with diabetes has a limb amputated. This rate is 75 percent higher than it was just less than a decade ago. What's worse – rates of amputations vary by race and ethnicity. In fact, rates of amputations are as much as four times higher among black Americans than in non-Hispanic white Americans. Five-year mortality rates for those undergoing a major amputation are worse than many forms of cancer.

So, for some, an amputation procedure can be a death sentence even though nearly 90 percent of these procedures are preventable through earlier interventions, better diagnostics and screenings for conditions that can lead to an amputation, and other engagement opportunities.

The ARC Act fixes this.

Specifically, this legislation will:

- Increase provider awareness and education on opportunities to prevent amputations, including through the creation of a peripheral artery disease (PAD) education program through the United States Department of Health and Human Services;
- Increase access to diagnostics aimed at identifying conditions that can lead to amputation by providing coverage for PAD screenings of at-risk beneficiaries in Medicare and Medicaid;
- Require the development of quality metrics among payers and facilities that can prevent amputations; and
- Provide access to amputation prevention services through the development of a voluntary pilot program, including through patient risk medication and management approaches, early screening and detection, ongoing surveillance, testing, and interventions for PAD and associated conditions.

This legislation provides opportunities to reduce tens of thousands of amputations that occur every year in the United States. In doing so, the legislation will save lives.

We thank you for your leadership on this important cause and look forward to working with your office(s) to have this legislation enacted.

Sincerely,

Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders (AWCS)
American College of Cardiology (ACC)
American Diabetes Association (ADA)
American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA)
Association of Black Cardiologists
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
California Podiatric Medical Association
CardioVascular Coalition (CVC)
Diabetes Leadership Council
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Florida Podiatric Medical Association
Illinois Podiatric Medical Association
Indiana Podiatric Medical Association
Iowa Podiatric Medical Society
Kentucky Podiatric Medical Association
Maryland Podiatric Medical Association
Massachusetts Foot and Ankle Society
Michigan Podiatric Medical Association
Nebraska Podiatric Medical Association
New Jersey Podiatric Medical Society
New Mexico Podiatric Medical Association
New York State Podiatric Medical Association
Ohio Foot and Ankle Medical Association
Oregon Podiatric Medical Association
Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI)

Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS)
Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)
South Carolina Podiatric Medical Association
Texas Podiatric Medical Association
Virginia Podiatric Medical Association
Washington State Podiatric Medical Association