

April 2025

Members of the Illinois General Assembly

We are writing to respectfully request your support of Senate Bill 1418 (Harris) to mandate insurance coverage for screening of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) in at-risk individuals.

We believe Illinois can be a national model in saving lives and limbs.

Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD), a common manifestation of atherosclerosis, affects over 21 million Americans annually, including tens of thousands in Illinois. Left undiagnosed, PAD can lead to severe complications such as avoidable amputations, cardiovascular events, and increased mortality rates. Minority populations, particularly Black and Hispanic communities, bear a disproportionate burden, with significantly higher rates of PAD-related amputations.

The legislation follows the guidelines developed by our medical societies on the proper treatment of PAD and the need for screening of asymptomatic individuals that are at-risk for PAD. Because these screenings are considered medically necessary, the insurance industry did not oppose the amended bill.

A few points:

- PAD accounts for an estimated 200,000 amputations annually in the United States, 85% of which are avoidable with early detection and treatment.
- The screening mandate is an inexpensive noninvasive diagnostic test: the ankle-brachial index (ABI) test for checking blood pressure in the legs. For instance, less than 20% of patients who undergo amputation die in 5 years.
- Early detection and treatment of PAD reduces the need for costly treatments, hospitalizations, and amputation surgeries associated with advanced disease. Based on prevalence data, the benefit-cost ratio of paying for screenings is close to 100:1.

We respectfully request your support of SB1418.