

## Sample Letter to Lawmaker

*Sending a letter to your lawmakers can be a great way to advocate for PAD patients and to increase awareness about PAD in your community. Below is an example letter to send to your lawmakers.*

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**[DATE]**

The Honorable **[LAWMAKER NAME]**

**[ADDRESS]**

Dear **[LAWMAKER NAME]**:

As your constituent and an individual with a personal connection to Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD), I am writing to inform you that September is PAD Awareness Month — an excellent opportunity to raise awareness and offer support to individuals living with PAD in our community.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 18 million people in the United States suffer from PAD, a common circulatory problem in which narrowed arteries reduce blood flow to the limbs. Estimates suggest that anywhere from 12 to 20 percent of individuals over the age of 60 are living with PAD.

Although the increased accessibility of vascular care procedures in the last decade have helped to reduce the number of amputations in patients with PAD, recent studies have found that more than 30 percent of patients who undergo non-traumatic amputation never have the arterial testing to evaluate whether they are candidates for revascularization or other interventions.

Arterial testing varies significantly based on patient, provider, and socio-economic characteristics with African-Americans being more than twice as likely to undergo amputation compared to other patients. Interventions such as revascularization which remove plaque in the arteries result in limb preservation, avoid amputation, and offer the best possible clinical outcome.

Over the last decade, vascular interventions have evolved from highly-invasive bypass procedures performed in an inpatient setting to minimally-invasive procedures performed in outpatient and office-based settings. We now have the ability as a country to eliminate non-traumatic amputations relating to PAD.

But we need your help. It is imperative that those with power ensure that PAD patients are protected from unnecessary amputation and always provided the necessary information and medical interventions that will save limbs and save lives.

I urge you to help spread awareness this month and support the PAD community in your policy decisions.

Sincerely,

**[Your Name]**

**[Phone]**

**[Email]**