

September 30, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair McMorris Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone,

Our allied organizations write to urge you to act on the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act ([H.R. 4818](#)) and to include the bill in any end-of-the-year health package. This critical legislation holds the potential to dramatically improve Medicare coverage of obesity care, a complex issue that continues to wreak havoc on communities of color, rural Americans, older adults, and many others across our nation.

This summer, the Ways and Means Committee took an important step forward to close gaps in coverage and ensure older Americans are able to maintain access to lifesaving obesity treatments when enrolling in Medicare. It is crucial to millions of Americans that Congress keeps this momentum going and provide Medicare coverage of obesity treatment.

In the 10 years since the American Medical Association recognized obesity as a complex chronic disease, Congress has failed to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries living with obesity receive comparable coverage to medical care as those who suffer from other chronic diseases. The results have been devastating and by 2030, one in two US adults will have obesity. These rates are higher for communities of color, with almost half of Black and Latino adults suffering from obesity today.

This is a pivotal moment to demonstrate Congress's commitment to addressing the obesity epidemic by providing much needed relief to the people who need it most. We ask members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and House Leadership to please consider this a priority for any end of the year healthcare package. The time for obesity care is now.

Sincerely,

American Association of Clinical Endocrinology (AACE)

American Diabetes Association

American Kidney Fund

American Liver Foundation

Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation

Choose Healthy Life

Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses

Defeat Malnutrition Today

Diabetes Leadership Council

Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition

Gerontological Society of America

Global Liver Institute

Health Equity Coalition for Chronic Disease

HealthyWomen

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Lupus Foundation of America

MANA, A National Latina Organization

Movement is Life

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Black Leadership Commission on Health

National Council on Aging

National Hispanic Council on Aging

National Hispanic Health Foundation

National Menopause Foundation

National Minority Quality Forum

Obesity Action Coalition

Obesity Care Advocacy Network

Obesity Medicine Association

WeightWatchers

Cc: Speaker Mike Johnson, Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Members of the Committee