

The Honorable Jason Smith
House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

Our allied organizations which represent patients, older Americans, advocates, providers, communities of color, faith communities and consumers write to urge you to markup the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act ([H.R. 4818](#)).

In 2013, the American Medical Association recognized obesity as a complex chronic disease. Today, more than two in five American adults live with obesity and according to a 2019 study by the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) nearly 1 in 2 adults will have obesity by 2030. Obesity has become an epidemic in the United States; however, it doesn't have to be this way. Through passing the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA), Congress has the power to change the arc of this epidemic and remove barriers to comprehensive treatment and care.

TROA takes crucial steps to allow Medicare to cover FDA-approved anti-obesity medications (AOMs) and expand coverage of intensive behavioral therapy (IBT) for millions of older adults. We ask that the Ways and Means Committee take the necessary steps to push this legislation forward, ensuring access to obesity care.

This important legislation has been introduced in several Congresses on a bipartisan basis. The bill has deep support among a variety of stakeholders. The time for updating the Medicare statute is now.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Alliance for Patient Access

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American Diabetes Association

American Medical Women's Association
American Psychological Association Services
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Choose Healthy Life
Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses (COGI)
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]
Movement is Life, Inc.
National Action Network
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Consumers League
National Council on Aging
National Hispanic Health Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Kidney Foundation
NOVA ScriptsCentral
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity Care Advocacy Network (OCAN)
Obesity Medicine Association
The Latino Coalition
The Obesity Society

WeightWatchers

YMCA of the USA

Cc: Members of the Committee