

June 26, 2024

Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

The undersigned organizations express their support for U.S. House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee's proposed "Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 4818" (AINS), which we believe will be an important step toward supporting access to obesity treatments for Medicare beneficiaries with obesity. We thank the committee for your efforts to fight this life-threatening chronic disease.

We support the AINS legislation that would allow older adults to maintain their treatment for obesity without being denied access to lifesaving treatments when enrolling in Medicare. Current law is inequitable and disrupts the continuity of care for patients. We appreciate the committee requiring the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to undertake a reconsideration of the national coverage determination (NCD) for "Intensive Behavior Therapy" in order to ensure the NCD reflects the current clinical guidelines and scientific literature and to inform if a redetermination is necessary.

The undersigned organizations have worked tirelessly to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with the disease of obesity have access to comprehensive treatment options. We are grateful to Representatives Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and Gwen Moore (D-WI) for championing this cause alongside us and we urge all their colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee to support the H.R. 4818 AINS as the first step toward improving older Americans' access to the full continuum of obesity care.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Alliance for Patient Access
Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention
American Academy of PAs
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Psychological Association Services
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
American Society for Nutrition
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
Choose Healthy Life
Gerontological Society of America
Global Liver Institute

Health Equity Coalition for Chronic Disease
HealthyWomen
MANA, A National Latina Organization
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Council on Aging
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Kidney Foundation
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity Care Advocacy Network
Obesity Medicine Association
STOP Obesity Alliance
The Obesity Society
WeightWatchers
YMCA of the USA