



November 19, 2024

Senate Finance Committee Chair Wyden

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Crapo

House Ways and Means Committee Chair Smith

House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Neal

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair McMorris-Rodgers

House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Pallone

Dear Committee Leadership:

The undersigned organizations have worked tirelessly over the last two years to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries with the disease of obesity have access to comprehensive treatment options such as obesity medications, metabolic and bariatric surgery and intensive behavioral therapy (IBT). We are calling on Congress to improve access and coverage to obesity care treatment for Older Americans in any end-of-year healthcare legislative package.

Medicare beneficiaries do not have access to comprehensive treatments for obesity because the 2003 legislation that established Medicare Part D excluded coverage of “weight loss” medications. The current law is inequitable and disrupts the continuity of care for patients. The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act, also known as TROA, (H.R. 4818 and S. 2407) is legislation designed to effectively treat and reduce the harmful impact of obesity in older Americans by enhancing Medicare beneficiaries’ access to providers that are best suited to administer IBT under Medicare Part B and providing Medicare Part D coverage for obesity medications.

It is time to move forward with a solution for removing the coverage barriers that are getting in the way of older Americans’ access to care for the disease of obesity. We, the undersigned organizations, urge Congress to take action before the end of the year and include an amended version of TROA in any end-of-year healthcare legislative package.

Older Americans need and deserve comprehensive obesity care. Please take this opportunity to provide an incremental step toward this goal this year.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Alliance for Patient Access

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention

American Association of Clinical Endocrinology

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American Diabetes Association

American Gastroenterological Association

American Kidney Fund

American Medical Women's Association

American Psychological Association Services

American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

American Society for Nutrition

Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists

ConscienHealth

Diabetes Leadership Council

Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition

Gerontological Society of America

Global Liver Institute

National Consumers League

National Council on Aging

National Kidney Foundation

Obesity Action Coalition

Obesity Medicine Association

STOP Obesity Alliance

The Obesity Society