



Alliance for Women's
Health & Prevention

The Honorable Maura Healey
Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon St.
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

July 24, 2025

Dear Governor Healey,

As the CEO of the Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention (AWHP), I am writing to express my sincere disappointment with the provision included in the Massachusetts budget ending Group Insurance Commission (GIC) coverage of obesity management medications for state employee health plan beneficiaries. **I implore you to reconsider this harmful provision, and to protect GIC beneficiaries who rely on this coverage to access needed obesity care.**

As you consider policies relating to obesity care coverage, I would encourage you to think of obesity as a serious chronic disease with a significant impact on women across Massachusetts. Here's why:

- [27.8% of Massachusetts women](#) are affected by obesity, with a [disproportionate impact](#) on women of color.
- Obesity is [associated with over 200 health complications](#), including many that specifically affect women, such as [breast and ovarian cancers](#) and [fertility challenges](#).
- Across the country, women with obesity are more likely to face **harmful social stigma and discrimination—including [earning up to 9% less](#)** than women not living with obesity.

Improved access to comprehensive obesity care, including medications, is key to addressing the obesity epidemic across the U.S. and especially in Massachusetts. What's more, [recent data](#) shows that improved access to some obesity medications reduces future medical costs that result from the serious health complications linked to the disease.

While we understand that Massachusetts must make difficult budget decisions, we firmly believe that the decision to eliminate GIC coverage of obesity management medications is misguided and will have a **long-term impact on both the health of Massachusetts residents as well as the state's financial wellbeing.**

GIC provides health insurance benefits to over 460,000 Massachusetts state employees and retirees, as well as their dependents and survivors. For the GIC beneficiaries living with obesity, the removal of coverage for obesity medications will be devastating. Simply put, the elimination of GIC coverage of obesity management medications is a step back for women's health across Massachusetts.

Obesity care should be covered just like care for any other chronic disease—it's only fair. There is no other chronic disease that requires this level of justification to cover evidence-based care. Patients deserve better. As such, **AWHP respectfully urges you to reinstate GIC coverage of obesity medications.**

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Respectfully,
Millicent Gorham
CEO, Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention