



Alliance for Women's
Health & Prevention

Director Kathleen Madden and Assistant Director Ryan Garber
Ohio Department of Administrative Services
30 East Broad Street, 40th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

July 10, 2025

Dear Director Madden and Assistant Director Garber,

As the CEO of the Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention (AWHP), I am writing to express my sincere disappointment with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services' recent decision to end coverage of obesity management medications for state employees on July 1, 2025. **I implore you to reconsider this harmful decision and to protect the health of state employees who rely on these medicines.**

As an organization focused on women's preventive health, AWHP recognizes that obesity is a chronic disease with a significant impact on women in Ohio. I urge you to think of obesity care coverage as a matter of women's health:

- **37% of Ohio 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.

New obesity management medications are transforming how we manage obesity and prevent associated health complications. **Coverage for these medications is critical to improving the health of countless Ohio residents, especially women, living with obesity.** What's more, the math supports coverage for these medications. According to [recent data from Aon](#), improved access to some obesity medications reduces future medical costs that result from the serious health complications linked to the disease.

We appreciate that budget considerations are top-of-mind for the Department. However, removing coverage of obesity management medications will cost Ohio more in the long run AND pose serious health risks to state employees. **The state of Ohio is going to pay either way—either by paying to treat the chronic disease of obesity now, or by paying for the consequences later.**

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 coverage of obesity management medications for state employees. If you care about women's health, you must care about obesity too.**

We appreciate your attention to this important issue.

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