

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