



April 22, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: 81 Groups Encourage Trump Administration to Find Innovative Pathways to Combat the Obesity Epidemic

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Administrator Oz,

We, the undersigned 81 organizations, who together represent American patients, healthcare providers, caregivers, and older Americans, write to encourage the Trump Administration to work collaboratively with our organizations and other healthcare communities to empower patient choices and provider autonomy to address the obesity epidemic and make Americans healthier.

The Trump Administration has the power and vision to meet the urgency of this moment in the epidemic and change the course of this chronic disease. Diseases associated with obesity, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancer, are the [leading causes of preventable death](#) in the U.S. By 2030, experts believe that [50%](#) of Americans will be living with obesity. Nearly [30%](#) of Americans aged 65 and older are living with obesity today. Beyond the profound health impacts that obesity has, [evidence](#) shows a strong correlation between body mass index (BMI) and U.S. health care expenditures, as well as the potential economic benefits of reducing the burden of obesity in America.

The Trump Administration can work with stakeholders to find innovative and winning solutions that ensure patient access to the most effective tools to treat obesity. As it stands, outdated federal policies stand in the way of significant scientific developments that have been made to treat and manage obesity. In fact, many federal agencies and states have joined the American Medical Association (AMA) in recognizing obesity as a complex disease and providing coverage for comprehensive obesity care and treatments.

Advocacy communities stand ready and eager to work with the Trump Administration to forge a path forward in this fight. Following the Trump Administration's decision to not move forward with a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) proposal to expand coverage of obesity medications¹, our groups are prepared to work hand-in-hand with the federal government to provide the best possible path to ensure access to treatments and care for the millions of Americans living with obesity. In a recent media interview, Secretary Kennedy shared the administration is exploring a regulatory framework that may make these treatments available for more Americans, a step our groups believe is vitally important.²

¹ Proposed Rule on Medicare and Medicaid Programs: Contract Year 2026 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program, Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Program, Medicare Cost Plan Program, and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (File code CMS-4208-P)

² RFK Jr. on coverage for GLP-1 medication, HHS cuts. CBS News. (April 9, 2025)



By working together, we can meet the moment to Make America Healthy Again and leverage innovation to win the fight against obesity. We look forward to working together with the Trump Administration to make this a reality. As such, the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) requests a meeting with HHS and CMS to discuss these issues further.

Sincerely,

Obesity Action Coalition (OAC)
Obesity Care Advocacy Network (OCAN)
Aimed Alliance
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Patient Access
Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention
American Academy of Physician Associates
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Medical Women's Association
American Psychological Services
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Amputee Coalition
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
California Black Health Network
California Chronic Care Coalition
Caregiver Action Network
Caring Ambassadors Program
Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders (CPALs)
Chronic Care Policy Alliance
Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses
Colorado Gynecologic Cancer Alliance
Colorado Obesity Society
Community Liver Alliance
ConscienHealth
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Defeat Malnutrition Today
Diabetes Leadership Council
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Endocrine Society
Fatty Liver Foundation
Florida Obesity Society
Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Caribbean Chapter of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
Gaining Health
Gerontological Society of America



Gibbons
Global Liver Institute
Health Equity Coalition for Chronic Disease
HealthyWomen
ICAN, International Cancer Advocacy Network
International Pain Foundation
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
Looms For Lupus
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Lupus Foundation of America
MANA, A National Latina Organization
Mid Mo Black Nurse Association
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)
National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) Central Florida Chapter
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Nurses Association, Inc
National Caucus and Center on Black Aging, Inc. (NCBA)
National Consumers League
National Council on Aging
National Forum for Heart Disease & Stroke Prevention
National Grange
National Health Council
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Health Foundation
NC Public Health Association
Obesity Medicine Association
Ohio Kentucky Chapter of the AMSBS
Orlando Health Bayfront Hospital
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Raymond A. Wood Foundation
RetireSafe
San Antonio Obesity Society
STOP Obesity Alliance
The American Society for Preventive Cardiology
The Mended Hearts, Inc.
The Obesity Society
Tri-state Obesity Society
Weigh to Wellness Denver
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease
YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties