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### **Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) Applauds South Carolina State Employee Bariatric Surgery Pilot Program**

The Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) applauds the South Carolina legislature for being courageous, and ignoring the typical and often negative stigma and discrimination associated with obesity, and passing coverage for bariatric surgery to improve the quality of health and life of state employees battling obesity. By implementing such coverage, not only will state employees have the ability to address the disease of obesity, the state will also save funds through reduced healthcare expenses in the long run.

With obesity affecting more than 93 million Americans, it will take a combination of prevention and treatment to successfully solve the obesity epidemic nationwide. We once again applaud the South Carolina legislature for impacting change through proactive thinking and leadership.