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Tampa, Florida, July 1, 2009 – Statement from Obesity Action Coalition President and CEO Joseph Nadglowski:

“As more than 93 million Americans are affected by obesity, and more than 23 percent of those Americans residing in the state of Kansas, the OAC urges the Shawnee County Commission to reevaluate their decision to increase the cost of emergency ambulance services by their contracted provider, American Medical Response, for those with critical needs as well as those affected by morbid obesity.

Ambulance services are a critical public service and should accommodate the needs of all of those who require them at a fair cost. AMR’s mission states, ‘Our mission is to make a difference by caring for people in need.’ Those with critical needs as well as those affected by morbid obesity are no different than the rest of the population in need and therefore should not be required to pay more for an inherent public medical service.”

About the OAC

The OAC is a non-profit patient organization dedicated to educating and advocating on behalf of those affected by obesity, morbid obesity and childhood obesity. Founded in 2005, the OAC was created to address the obesity epidemic and its devastating impact on the quality of health, quality of life and socioeconomic status of those impacted as well as its significant impact on society. The OAC started after a legislator pointed out that he was often asked to address the obesity epidemic, but rarely heard from those affected by obesity themselves. The OAC’s focus is unique as we represent the views and interests of the nearly 1/3 of all Americans who are personally affected by obesity. Based in Tampa, Fla., the OAC is a national organization consisting of members in all 50 states.

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