



4511 North Himes Ave., Suite 250

Tampa, FL 33614

(800) 717-3117

(813) 872-7835

Fax: (813) 873-7838

September 10, 2008

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-1502

Dear Senator Harkin:

On behalf of the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC), I would like to congratulate you for your continuing leadership in supporting both prevention and treatment initiatives that target obesity. The OAC enthusiastically endorses your legislation -- the Federal Obesity Prevention, Treatment and Research Act of 2008.

This important legislation focuses on developing dynamic new collaborations and collective actions across federal and state agencies, between private and public entities and industries, individuals and communities, which the Institute of Medicine recommended in its latest reports on this growing public health issue as essential to successfully addressing our country's obesity epidemic. In addition, the Federal Obesity Prevention, Treatment and Research Act focuses on supporting interventions that will improve access to obesity prevention and treatment services in our federal healthcare programs in recognition that the high prevalence of overweight and obesity dramatically increases the costs in Medicare, Medicaid, SCHIP and other public and private health insurance coverage.

#### **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.

Again, we applaud your leadership on this issue and will be actively working to enact this critical piece of legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any additional information or be of assistance on any other obesity-related issues. I can be reached via phone at (800) 717-3117 or e-mail at [jnadglowski@obesityaction.org](mailto:jnadglowski@obesityaction.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Nadglowski, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Joseph Nadglowski, Jr.  
OAC President and CEO