



4511 North Himes Ave., Suite 250  
Tampa, FL 33614

(800) 717-3117  
(813) 872-7835  
Fax: (813) 873-7838

[info@obesityaction.org](mailto:info@obesityaction.org)  
[www.ObesityAction.org](http://www.ObesityAction.org)

April 19, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith, Chair  
The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member  
House Ways and Means Committee  
United States House of Representatives

Dear Chair Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

The science is clear that obesity is a serious chronic disease, driven by strong biology and not by choice. There are several safe and effective treatments for people living with obesity, but access and coverage barriers are getting in the way. Medicare beneficiaries do not have access to all evidence based treatments for obesity, including obesity medications or some intensive behavioral therapy services. The Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) requests that HR 4818, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA), be included in the health markup occurring in the House Ways & Means Committee.

The OAC is the leading national non-profit dedicated to serving people living with obesity through awareness, support, education, and advocacy. Our vision is to create a society where all individuals are treated with respect and without discrimination or bias regardless of their size or weight. We strive for those affected by the disease of obesity to have the right to access safe and effective treatment options. OAC has a growing membership of more than 80,000 individuals across the United States.

As you know, the 2003 legislation that established Medicare Part D excluded coverage of "weight loss" medications. Advances in science clearly show that obesity is a disease that causes the body to store excess fat. Obesity interventions and treatments focus on addressing biological dysfunctions, not "cosmetic weight loss." TROA is legislation designed to effectively treat and reduce the harmful impact of obesity in older Americans by enhancing Medicare beneficiaries' access to providers that are best suited to administer intensive behavioral therapy (IBT) under Medicare Part B and providing Medicare Part D coverage for Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved obesity medications. Medicare beneficiaries need and deserve obesity care.

Please include HR 4818 (TROA) in your upcoming hearing. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel to contact me or OAC Policy Consultant Chris Gallagher via email at [chris@potomaccurrents.com](mailto:chris@potomaccurrents.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Nadglowski, Jr.", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Joseph Nadglowski, Jr.  
OAC President and CEO