



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

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

info@obesityaction.org
www.ObesityAction.org

May 2, 2017

On behalf of the more than 54,000 members of the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC), a National non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals affected by the disease of obesity, the OAC is pleased to support House Bill (HB) 3560/Senate Bill (SB) 756, which would establish a special committee to study health benefit coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of obesity provided by private group health benefit plans and plans and programs provided through government entities. The legislation would also identify the barriers that limit new or additional coverage for obesity treatment services. If enacted, this legislation will help Texas conduct a thorough review of current coverage policies surrounding evidence-based obesity treatment avenues and highlight gaps in treatment avenues that should be addressed.

Obesity is a complex chronic disease that deserves to be treated seriously -- in the same fashion as diabetes, heart disease or cancer. Those affected by obesity should have access to the same medically necessary and covered treatment avenues afforded to all others who suffer from chronic disease and receive their care through public or private health plans. In the case of obesity, public and private health plans should cover intensive behavioral therapy, pharmacotherapy, and surgical intervention.

Texas currently has the tenth highest obesity rate in the country with nearly one-third of its citizens affected by obesity. The OAC urges the Committee to approve HB 3560/SB 756 and we are hopeful that this study will lead to improved access to obesity treatment services for millions of Texans affected by overweight and obesity.

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