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August 23, 2021

Wendy Slavit, MPH
Office of the Commissioner
Office of Patient Affairs
Office of Clinical Policy and Programs
Food and Drug Administration

RE: Nomination of Patricia Nece, JD, for the FDA Patient Engagement Collaborative

Dear Ms. Slavit,

On behalf of the more than 75,000 members of the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC), a National non-profit organization dedicated to giving a voice to the individual affected by the disease of obesity, I am honored to nominate Patricia Nece, JD, to serve on the Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Patient Engagement Collaborative (PEC).

In January 2021, Patricia was chosen as Chair of the OAC based on her tireless advocacy efforts representing the needs of people with obesity. These efforts also resulted in the OAC recognizing Patricia with the Barbara Thompson Award for Advocacy in 2015 following her active participation in numerous forums where understanding the patient voice helped drive perception and policy change surrounding obesity care.

For example, Patricia testified many times before FDA Advisory Panels regarding the need for more evidence-based obesity treatments. She has also been chosen to participate in several roundtable discussions aimed at strengthening systems of care for patients with overweight and obesity, which were conducted by the STOP Obesity Alliance at the George Washington University School of Public Health. Finally, her past work as Chair of the OAC Weight Bias Committee allowed Patricia to share her personal story with policy makers, legislators, doctors, medical students, nutritionists, food-industry representatives and others. This ongoing dialogue is helping debunk many of the myths about people with obesity -- breaking down a primary barrier to better understanding the complexities of obesity and the need for comprehensive obesity treatment.

Throughout the last decade, the FDA has made tremendous strides toward leveling the playing field surrounding its criteria for reviewing new medications and devices for treating obesity. The OAC looks forward to continuing this progress with the agency and believes that the addition of Patricia Nece to the FDA's Patient Engagement Collaborative would be another important milestone toward treating obesity seriously.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Nadglowski".

Joseph Nadglowski, OAC President and CEO