



Support the Obesity Community Efforts to Establish a Treat Obesity Seriously Congressional Caucus!

The Obesity Care Continuum (OCC) urges members of Congress to take a proactive leadership role in establishing a Treat Obesity Seriously Congressional Caucus to help better elevate the importance of ensuring patient access to treatment for this disease affecting one in every three Americans.

Similar to many other medical conditions, obesity is a complex, multifactorial chronic disease, requiring a comprehensive, multidisciplinary treatment approach. This approach must encompass the best standards of care, both in terms of the treatments chosen and care coordination and the clinical environment in which they are delivered. To amplify these points, The Obesity Society launched the “Treat Obesity Seriously” campaign to educate policymakers on the need to improve access for obesity treatment and provide clinicians the tools to prevent, diagnose and treat obesity.

Unfortunately, private health insurance plans continue to exclude coverage for obesity treatment services – partly due to shortsighted cost savings efforts and partly due to the false assumption that these services are either not medically necessary or not in line with generally accepted standards of medical care despite scientific evidence to the contrary.

The obesity community needs you to take a public stand in support of ensuring patient access to, and coverage of, comprehensive obesity treatment services. And while we understand that policymakers are often reluctant to mandate disease-specific treatments, we believe that legislators do have a responsibility to provide a public forum where these issues can be fully discussed and carefully examined.

Currently, there are more than 200 Congressional caucuses established for a wide range of topics including health issues such as cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, and mental illness. Others focus on rural healthcare issues or health disparities. Needless to say, if there is a worthy cause, there is a congressional caucus for it – even for things such as algae energy, sweeteners, wild salmon, cement, soil, steel, contaminated drywall, and even bourbon.

Don't you think it's about time that someone in Congress established a forum where individuals affected by obesity, healthcare professionals and policymakers can proactively come together for a serious discussion about current and new treatment avenues that could help so many Americans address their obesity and improve their health?

Please show your leadership on this issue by championing a “Treat Obesity Seriously” Congressional Caucus! *For more information about the Treat Obesity Seriously Congressional Caucus, please contact OCC Washington Coordinator Christopher Gallagher at 571-235-6475 or via email at chris@potomaccurrents.com*

About the Obesity Care Continuum

The Obesity Care Continuum was established in 2011 and currently includes the Obesity Action Coalition, The Obesity Society, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, and the American Society of Bariatric Physicians. With a combined membership of over 125,000 healthcare professionals and patient advocates, the OCC is dedicated to promoting access to, and coverage of, the continuum of care surrounding the treatment of overweight and obesity. The OCC also challenges weight bias and stigma oriented policies – whenever and wherever they occur.