

The *Importance* of Post-Treatment *Patient Advocacy*

- *It is important that all those who have received treatment voice their stories to the media, congress and anyone else who will listen. Positive stories demonstrate to the general public that access to treatment improves patients' overall quality of life and health.*

Why Is It Important to Advocate?

As you know, advocacy is the act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea or policy, and all those who were affected by

obesity at one point in their lives need to continue to advocate for access to treatment for the millions of individuals still affected by this disease.

As stories about obesity and morbid obesity continue to become more prevalent in the media, many times they contain negative publicity about weight-loss therapies.

For instance, in recent months, weight-loss surgery received a large amount of negative national media attention; however, very few weight-loss surgery patients responded with their positive stories.

It is important that all those who have received treatment voice their stories to the media, congress and anyone else who will listen. Positive stories demonstrate to the general public that access to treatment improves patients' overall quality of life and health.

Where Can I Start to Advocate?

The Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) encourages proactive advocacy by focusing attention in the following areas:

- Legislators
- Government Employees
- Employers
- General Public

- Insurers (This is an important one! If your therapy was covered by your insurance provider, voice your opinion and let them know the differences it has made in your life.)
- Media (If you see a negatively focused weight-loss treatment article in your community, respond to it. Write your response to the editor and author of the article. Urge them to publish your article as well to show both sides.)



ABOUT THE OBESITY ACTION COALITION (OAC)

The Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) is a National non-profit organization dedicated to giving a voice to individuals affected by obesity and helping them along their journey toward better health. Our core focuses are to elevate the conversation of weight and its impact on health, improve access to obesity care, provide science-based education on obesity and its treatments, and fight to eliminate weight bias and discrimination.



VIBRANT COMMUNITY



NATIONAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



ANNUAL CONVENTION



ADVOCACY



PUBLIC EDUCATION

LEARN, CONNECT, ENGAGE

The OAC knows that the journey with weight can be challenging but we also know that great things happen when we learn, connect and engage. That is why the OAC Community exists. Our Community is designed to provide quality education, ongoing support programs, an opportunity to connect, and a place to take action on important issues.

Through the OAC Community, you can get access to:

- Weight & Health Education • Community Blogs
 - Community Discussion Forum
 - Ongoing Support • Meaningful Connections
- AND MUCH MORE**



JOIN TODAY: GO TO OBESITYACTION.ORG/JOIN

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