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Tampa, Fla., July 10, 2012 – Statement from Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) President and CEO Joseph Nadglowski:

OAC Statement on the Current Climate of Obesity Drug Approval

7/10/12 – The past few weeks have been very exciting and promising for the obesity drug market. We have seen the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approve a drug for the treatment of the disease of obesity for the first time in more than 13 years. This is a tremendous proactive step in ensuring obesity treatment availability.

While we are excited for the recent approval, it is important that we not lose sight of the overarching goal to increase obesity treatment options across the spectrum from medically managed weight-loss to metabolic and bariatric surgery. As obesity carries with it many root causes, which often coincide, such as emotional, environmental, physical, behavioral, genetic and more, it is important that we continue to strive for an increase in all FDA-approved obesity treatments. While one approved medication is good, two would be better and even more approved would be an excellent start to appropriately and effectively tackle the complexity of obesity.

If we look at any other disease state, the armamentarium used to treat that disease is vast and impressive; however, obesity, which affects more than 93 million Americans, is often limited to very few options. Treating obesity is not a simple science. If it were, we would not have an epidemic on our doorstep at this time.

In closing, as future obesity treatments come up for FDA review in the coming weeks, we strongly encourage the FDA to continue displaying the proactive mindset that they have used throughout the past weeks. For the first time in history, we have seen the first glimpse of treating this disease with a full spectrum of tools. It is imperative that we keep this positive momentum moving forward with the future approval of obesity treatment options.

About the OAC

The OAC is a National nonprofit charity dedicated to helping individuals affected by obesity. The OAC was formed to bring together individuals struggling with weight issues and provide educational resources and advocacy tools.

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