



# ADVOCACY NEWS ADVOCACY ACTION

## *OAC and those Affected Head to Capitol Hill*

*By Joe Nadglowski*

### OAC LEADS GROUP OF PATIENTS IN CAPITOL HILL VISITS

On September 21 as part of our continued effort to educate our elected officials on obesity, its treatments and consequences, the OAC brought a group of more than 25 volunteers to Washington, DC, for advocacy training and a series of legislative meetings.

Board members and volunteers from the OAC led the 12 bariatric surgery patients selected as winners of Allergan's "Voice the C.H.O.I.C.E." contest plus members of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) leadership on more than 30 legislative office visits representing 13 states.

During the visits, the advocates shared their personal struggles with weight and emphasized to our elected officials that a combination of both prevention and treatment is necessary to combat the obesity epidemic.

They also urged our elected officials to support prevention efforts like Rep. Kind's Healthy Choices Act as well as to expand access to dietary counseling, healthcare provider supervised weight-loss with or without pharmaceuticals, bariatric surgery and other comprehensive approaches to treat obesity.

Special thanks to all of those who joined us in DC to "Raise their Voice." To learn more about how you can join in the OAC's advocacy activities, visit the advocacy section of our Web site at [www.obesityaction.org](http://www.obesityaction.org).

### OAC PARTNERS ON THE C.H.O.I.C.E. CAMPAIGN

Obesity prevention and treatment are equally important when it comes to fighting obesity. That's why the OAC has partnered with Allergan on the C.H.O.I.C.E. (Choosing Health Over Obesity Inspiring Change through Empowerment) Campaign to unite individuals affected and let our voice be heard loud and clear to Congress.

The C.H.O.I.C.E. Campaign is an educational initiative created by Allergan designed to bring together individuals affected by obesity, reduce the prevalence of obesity in our country and help those already affected to regain their health. To support this effort, the OAC has pledged to give away 1,000 FREE one-year OAC Memberships to those who join in the campaign by signing the petition to Congress. The petition to Congress aims to



*Joe Nadglowski speaks to participants during the Capitol Hill visit training.*



*OAC President/CEO Joe Nadglowski and C.H.O.I.C.E. winner Chaz Merkel head to their meeting with Representative Bill Young in the Capitol.*



*The winners of the C.H.O.I.C.E. Campaign pose for a picture before beginning their Hill visits.*

*\*All photos provided by Allergan*

let our elected officials know that hundreds of thousands of individuals want to see more being done when it comes to treatment and prevention efforts.

If you are not yet an OAC Member, now is the perfect time to let your voice be heard and join the OAC at no cost to you. Be sure to check the “opt-in” box at the end of the form to sign the petition so you can automatically receive your FREE one-year membership.

If you are already an OAC Member, we thank you for your membership and urge you to sign this important petition to Congress. Let your friends, family and colleagues also know about this campaign and encourage them to be a part of it with you. The more individuals who sign this petition, the louder our voice is to Congress.

To visit the Campaign Web site and sign the petition to Congress (where you can opt-in for your FREE OAC Membership), visit **[www.mychoicecampaign.com](http://www.mychoicecampaign.com)**.



# 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](http://OBESITYACTION.ORG/JOIN)**

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