March 19, 2026

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to express our support for modestly increased funding in the Labor Health and Human Services (LHHS) appropriations bill for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO), which focuses on obesity prevention and treatment, improving nutrition and physical activity through identification and implementation of evidence-based interventions, quality standards, and epidemiologic surveillance of chronic diseases.

Founded in 2015, OCAN is a diverse group of organizations focused on changing how we perceive and approach obesity in the United States. OCAN works to increase access to evidence-based obesity treatments by uniting key stakeholders and the broader obesity community around significant education, policy and legislative efforts. We aim to fundamentally change how the U.S. healthcare system treats obesity, and to shift the cultural mindset on obesity so that policymakers and the public address obesity as a serious chronic disease.

According to a study published in The Lancet, 213 million American adults are expected to have overweight or obesity by 2050 in the absence of any major public health and medical care policy changes. To make America healthy again, obesity must be addressed, treated, and managed effectively.

Good nutrition and adequate physical activity improve health across the lifespan by supporting optimal growth and development in children, reducing the possibility of developing costly chronic diseases that can increase premature mortality. Yet, few Americans meet recommendations for a healthy diet or adequate physical activity, and many suffer chronic diseases and related health consequences. DNPAO provides national guidance, training, and data tools that millions of health professionals rely on, including the CDC growth charts, BMI calculators and annual obesity prevalence maps.

DNPAO is critical to addressing obesity disease prevention and treatment through identification and implementation of evidence-based interventions, quality standards, and epidemiologic surveillance of chronic diseases. We respectfully request a total of $123,700 million outlined below for the following programs:

- DNPAO Main Line: $59 million
- Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration (CORD): $5 million
- Breastfeeding Programs: $9.75 million
- Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH): $44.95 million
- Early Care and Education Programs: $5 million

This sustained, evidence-based public health investment is essential to reducing chronic disease burden and strengthening America's long-term health and economic stability. These investments are critical to:

- **Reducing Long-Term Healthcare Costs** -- Prevention and early intervention lower rates of costly obesity-related conditions.
- **Strengthening Families and Workforce** -- Healthier communities experience improved quality of life and economic productivity.
- **Benefitting Older Adults** –improving access to healthy food in community settings (food pantries, worksites, hospitals) and improving access to nutritious foods and safe places to exercise.
- **Supporting Children Early** -- Breastfeeding, early care and Family Healthy Weight Programs promote healthy growth and long-term health.

- **Providing Trusted Data and Infrastructure** -- DNPAO equips states and communities with surveillance tools and science-based guidance to respond effectively to chronic disease trends.

We encourage you to ensure that the LHHS bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 includes robust funding to support the continuation of DNPAO programs and data. These programs are evidence based and vital to the health of the nation.

Sincerely,

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