



November 20, 2024

Dear Senate Finance Committee Chair Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

The science is clear that obesity is a serious chronic disease, driven by strong biology and not by choice. There are several safe and effective treatments for people living with obesity, but access and coverage barriers are getting in the way. Medicare beneficiaries do not have access to all evidence-based treatments for obesity, including FDA-approved obesity management medications (OMMs) or some intensive behavioral therapy (IBT) services.

**The undersigned organizations, representing healthcare professionals who care for so many Americans affected by obesity, urge the Senate Finance Committee to include some form of S. 2407, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA), in any end-of-year healthcare legislative package.**

As you know, the 2003 legislation that established Medicare Part D excluded coverage of “weight loss” medications. Advances in science clearly show that obesity is a disease that causes the body to store excess fat. Obesity interventions and treatments focus on addressing biological dysfunctions, not “cosmetic weight loss.” TROA is legislation designed to effectively treat and reduce the harmful impact of obesity in older Americans by enhancing Medicare beneficiaries’ access to providers that are best suited to administer IBT under Medicare Part B and providing Medicare Part D coverage for OMMs.

Medicare beneficiaries need and deserve comprehensive obesity care. Please take this opportunity to provide an incremental step toward this goal by including expanded coverage within the Medicare program through an end-of-year healthcare package.

Sincerely,

Obesity Medicine Association  
The Obesity Society