June 6, 2024

The Honorable Jason Smith, Chair
The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee, U.S. House of Representatives
1139 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

We are writing to you as the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) to urge the House Ways and Means Committee to include the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA, HR4818) in the health mark-up occurring soon in the House Ways & Means Committee.

Obesity is a chronic disease that affects over 42% of the U.S. adult population and has been declared a global epidemic by the World Health Organization (WHO). Our understanding of obesity has evolved over the past few decades, and scientists now realize that obesity is a serious chronic disease, driven by biological factors, and not by choice. With advances in therapeutics, we now have several safe and effective treatments for people living with obesity, but access remains a challenge. Medicare beneficiaries, for example, do not have coverage for all evidence-based treatments for obesity, including obesity medications and some intensive behavioral therapies.

AMWA is particularly concerned about the impact of obesity on women’s health as well as other chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA, HR4818) was re-introduced to the House, and we hope that it will be included in the upcoming health markup in the House Ways & Means Committee. The bill has the support of many medical associations, including AMWA, American Diabetes Association, American Gastroenterological Association, American Academy of PAs, Association of Diabetes Care and Education Specialists, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Psychological Association, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Obesity Action Coalition, Obesity Medicine Association, Obesity Society, National Kidney Foundation, National Hispanic Medical Association, and Endocrine Society. The American Medical Association has also called for insurance coverage parity for emerging obesity treatment options.

We urge you to include HR 4818 (TROA) in your upcoming hearing. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if we can be of help.

Sincerely,

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