

December 4, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to thank you for the proposed rule that provides for the regulatory language to allow for Medicare Part D and Medicaid prescription drug coverage of obesity medications. As a coalition, we have worked tirelessly to ensure that people living with the disease of obesity have access to comprehensive treatment options such as intensive behavioral therapy, obesity medications, and metabolic and bariatric surgery.

We are grateful that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has reconsidered its position that obesity is in fact a chronic disease and that Food & Drug Administration approved medications for this complex condition should be covered by Medicare and Medicaid. The Obesity Care Advocacy Network has been proposing this re-interpretation of the Part D statute throughout the Obama, Trump and Biden Administrations and we are pleased that this change will now occur across both Democratic and Republican administrations as obesity is truly a bipartisan disease – affecting millions of Americans across every political ideology.

Opening access to obesity medications by Medicare and Medicaid will ensure equitable access to effective therapies for all Americans, particularly underserved populations disproportionately affected by obesity. By addressing this issue, the Biden and Trump Administrations will also make way for a pathway for equitable healthcare access and long-term cost savings for the Medicare program.

Sincerely,

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Alliance for Patient Access

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention

American Academy of Physician Associates  
American Association of Clinical Endocrinology  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery  
American Society for Nutrition  
American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine  
Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists  
ConscienHealth  
Diabetes Leadership Council  
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition  
Gerontological Society of America  
Global Liver Institute  
National Council on Aging  
National Consumers League  
National Kidney Foundation  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Obesity Medicine Association  
STOP Obesity Alliance  
The Obesity Society