



TAKE ACTION NOW! Support National Obesity Care Week!

Obesity in America

Today, more than 72 million adult Americans are affected by the disease of obesity¹. For too long, people with obesity have been stigmatized, preventing the effective treatment of the disease.² Half of people with obesity report they have never had a conversation about weight with a healthcare professional (HCP)³, and only 4 in 10 patients say they have been counseled about their weight by a HCP⁴.

The conversation about weight between healthcare providers and their patients is avoided for many reasons, including healthcare provider-based weight bias⁵ and a lack of knowledge regarding obesity's impact on health⁶.

The Campaign – National Obesity Care Week (NOCW)

To address a lack of appropriate, evidence-based care, the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC), The Obesity Society (TOS), the STOP Obesity Alliance and the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) have launched National Obesity Care Week with a vision to **create a society that understands, respects and accepts the complexities of obesity and values science-based care**. NOCW will achieve this vision to change the way we care about obesity by:

- Elevating societal awareness of the disease of obesity, those affected by it, its science-based treatments and weight bias
- Building a fact-based understanding of obesity among individuals impacted by the disease, healthcare professionals, medical societies, policy makers, payers and other stakeholders
- Facilitating a shift to science-based treatments for those living with obesity

We invite you to join us in this fight and help change the way we care about the disease of obesity by supporting the National Obesity Care Week Congressional Resolutions!

References:

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3. Waring, M.E., Robert, M.B., Parker, D.R., Eaton, C.B. Documentation and management of overweight and obesity in primary care. *JABFM*. 2009;22(5):544-552. Available at: <http://www.jabfm.org/cgi/content/abstract/22/5/544>.
4. Whiteman, Honor. "Patient-doctor disconnect 'impacts weight loss interventions'." *Medical News Today*. MediLexicon, Intl., 17 Nov. 2013. Web. 21 Jan. 2016. <<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/268872.php>>
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6. Obesity in the United States: Public Perceptions. The Associated Press – NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Bethesda, MD. Available at: <http://www.apnorc.org/PDFs/Obesity/AP-NORC-Obesity-PUF-Codebook.pdf>.

Congressional Resolution Proclaiming National Obesity Care Week

Senate Resolution 63/House Resolution 142

During February 2017, Senators Tom Carper (D-DE) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Representatives Eric Paulsen (R-MN) and Ron Kind (D-WI) introduced Senate Res. 63 and House Res. 142, respectively, which would proclaim the week of October 29 through November 4, 2017, as National Obesity Care Week (NOCW).

Text of the Senate/House NOCW Congressional Resolution

Whereas the disease of obesity is a major source of concern across the United States, and more than one-third of adults in the United States are affected by obesity, with the number of people with severe obesity in the United States continuing to grow;

Whereas experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease influenced by various physiological, environmental, and genetic factors;

Whereas, while prevention programs have successfully established the seriousness of the public health crisis posed by obesity, it is also imperative that individuals and families currently affected by obesity receive comprehensive care and treatment;

Whereas studies show that bias against and stigma associated with people affected by obesity among general society and healthcare professionals are significant barriers to effectively treating the disease;

Whereas healthcare professionals, policymakers, patients, and families should regard obesity with the same level of seriousness with which other chronic diseases are regarded;

Whereas research suggests that weight loss of as little as 5 to 10 percent of the total weight of an individual affected by obesity can improve the associated health risks affecting many patients living with obesity and can thereby support the goals of Federal and State initiatives to reduce chronic disease, improve health outcomes, and help control healthcare costs;

Whereas healthcare professionals should treat patients with respect and compassion and should partner with patients to develop comprehensive and individualized approaches to weight loss and weight management that consider all appropriate treatment options, such as reduced-calorie diets, physical activity modifications, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery; and

Whereas it will take a long-term collaborative effort, which will involve individual, corporate, and institutional partners in all fields taking active roles, to ignite the betterment of obesity care and treatment:

Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate/House—

- (1) proclaims the week of October 29 through November 4, 2017, as “National Obesity Care Week”; and
- (2) encourages all people in the United States to create a foundation of open communication to break barriers of misunderstanding and stigma regarding obesity and to improve the lives of all individuals affected by obesity and their families.