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CEO Action Fund Applauds Harkin's New "HeLP America" Act

Bill would promote community and clinical efforts to address obesity epidemic

(Washington DC) The Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund today applauded Senator Tom Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, for introducing the Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America (HeLP America) Act. The HeLP America Act has a strong emphasis on policies to curb the obesity epidemic—from promoting appropriate levels of physical activity, promoting proper nutrition, and encouraging a healthy workforce— and represents a significant step in improving the health of all Americans and decreasing long term spending on health care costs.

"The HeLP America Act reflects thoughtful and effective policies that can help Americans reach and sustain a healthy weight," said Stephanie Silverman, co-founder of the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund and a member of its Board of Directors. "As America's health care costs associated with obesity become increasingly unsustainable, these efforts —aimed at prevention— could not be more timely. In fact, new research suggests that nearly 10 percent of all U.S. medical costs can be attributed to obesity. We commend Chairman Harkin for taking such steps that can begin to reverse this epidemic, and urge his colleagues in the Senate to cosponsor the bill."

"In addition to the important provisions contained in the HeLP America Act," Silverman continued, "the Campaign will continue to urge Congress for stronger treatment options for obesity. From recognizing obesity as a disease to increasing access to fresh, affordable, nutritious foods and places to play,, we look to the 113th Congress to continue investing in our nation's health."

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About the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund

The Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund advocates for changes in federal policy that will enable more Americans to eat healthy and be active, as well as those that provide appropriate medical treatment for patients. In its work, the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund convenes leaders from across industry, academia, patient and disease communities and public health to speak with one voice for measures to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults.