



\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\*

April 14, 2011

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## Campaign Deplores Pending Budget Cuts for Anti-Obesity Programs

**(WASHINGTON DC)** As Congress prepares to vote today on a budget for the remainder of FY 2011—and tomorrow on Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan’s budget proposal for FY 2012-FY 2022—the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund deplored efforts to pare back or eliminate programs to curb the obesity epidemic and its spiraling long-term costs to taxpayers.

A complete review of the budget proposals under consideration may be found on [the Campaign Action Fund’s website](#).

The Campaign Action Fund urged that programs to help reverse the obesity epidemic are critical as a means of reducing the tremendous costs—\$168 billion per year in health expenses alone—that obesity places on taxpayers. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that medical spending on adults that are obese has risen by 111 percent between 1987 and 2007 from \$2,630 per person to \$5,560 per person, and these numbers will continue to climb.

“Reversing and undermining vital obesity programs will not balance our budget,” said Stephanie Silverman, a founding director and senior advisor to the Campaign Action Fund. “What it will do is ensure a continuation of skyrocketing costs, diminishing national productivity and shorter, less healthy lives for our children. Now is not the time to repeal progress.”

Specifically, the six-month spending deal for 2011—which cuts \$38.5 billion from 2010 levels—would diminish seven percent of funds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), reducing access to nutritious foods for those most in need. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control would lose \$730 million, jeopardizing such critical anti-obesity initiatives as the Nutrition and Physical Activity Program to Prevent Obesity.

Meanwhile, the Ryan budget seeks to eliminate the Affordable Care Act, including critical provisions to treat and prevent obesity. The health care law requires insurance companies, for the first time, to provide coverage for obesity screening and nutritional counseling, establish new early childhood nutrition initiatives that engage at-risk communities and create a public awareness campaign on nutrition, exercise and obesity reduction. Additionally, it creates a Prevention and Public Health Fund that would enable state and local governments, community organizations and nonprofits to increase healthy food options in schools, create physical activity programs at the community level and incentivize workplace wellness.

The Ryan budget also calls for a \$398 billion cut to Medicare and \$735 billion cut to Medicaid over ten years, placing strains on the programs’ ability to cover obesity treatment and prevention programs.

Further, it would dramatically scale back the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), reducing access to nutritious foods among communities most in need.

Absent reforms to reverse the epidemic, obesity-related medical costs stand to double by 2018, according to a recent McKinsey study.

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**About the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund**

*The Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund is dedicated to federal policy changes that can reverse one of America's costliest diseases. The Campaign convenes leaders from industry, academia, public health and associations to speak with one voice for measures to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults.*