

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

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**\*\*\*Media Contact\*\*\***

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## Campaign to End Obesity, Advocacy Community, Send Urgent Call to Congress to Vote Against Health Care Repeal

**(Washington, DC)** Today, the Campaign to End Obesity, joined by health leaders and advocacy groups from across the country, sent an urgent message to the House of Representatives to vote against the proposed repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA).

“America faces an enormous challenge in dealing with our growing obesity epidemic and the \$168 billion in annual medical cost associated with it,” said Penny Lee, Executive Director of the Campaign to End Obesity. “As a nation, we need to aggressively confront this challenge, not walk away from it.”

The call to policymakers outlined the legislation’s much-needed provisions to combat overweight and obesity. For example, the PPACA made critical progress in addressing the cost of obesity by requiring insurance companies, for the first time, to provide coverage for obesity prevention services, which include obesity screening (a doctor’s physical exam combined with a measurement for body-mass index) and nutritional counseling.

Additionally, the law provides for pilot programs and community based initiatives for obesity intervention and treatment efforts. It provides provisions encouraging early childhood nutrition and initiatives that target communities that are disproportionately obese and overweight.

In addition to the Campaign to End Obesity, the letter’s signatories include the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Defeat Diabetes Foundation, International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association, National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity, National Association for Sport and Physical Education, Ottawaquechee Community Partnership, University of Wisconsin Health and A World Fit for Kids.

Currently, two thirds of adults and nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese. Obesity is one of America’s costliest diseases: nearly one of every five dollars spent on healthcare in the United States will be attributable to obesity and obesity-related conditions within the next decade. Additionally, the current generation of children stands to be the first in history to have shorter life expectancies than their parents. The nation’s overweight and obesity epidemic even threatens our military readiness – a recent report noted that nearly nine million potential recruits are too heavy to serve; becoming overweight is one of the leading causes of medical discharges of active duty personnel.

Full text of the letter is [attached](#).

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### **About the Campaign**

The Campaign to End Obesity is dedicated to reversing America’s costliest disease. Ending this epidemic requires change – in individuals, institutions and communities. The Campaign convenes leaders from industry, academia, public health and associations to speak with one voice for federal policies to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults.