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Campaign to End Obesity Urges Senate to Vote Against Health Care Repeal

In letter to Minority Leader, national advocacy groups stress taxpayers' stake in addressing obesity and its related chronic diseases before they occur

(Washington, DC) Today, the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund, joined by health leaders and advocacy groups from across the country, sent an urgent message to the Senate to consider the effect of repealing the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010's (PPACA) much-needed provisions to combat overweight and obesity, 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," said Steve Mulder, Government Relations Director of the Campaign to End Obesity. "Without serious efforts to reverse this epidemic, American taxpayers will incur ever-increasing physical and economic costs, as obesity is linked to a number of chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and dozens of others. Currently, Medicare is projected to pay out nearly \$75 billion for diabetes care alone by 2019 – this is unsustainable."

The call to the Senate 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 Action Fund, the letter's signatories include the University of Wisconsin Health, National Association for Sport and Physical Education and International Health and the Racquet and Sportsclub Association.

Currently two thirds of adults and nearly one in three children in America are overweight or obese. 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.

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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.