

The logo features a stylized 'C' shape on the left, composed of a red vertical bar and a blue curved bar. To the right of this graphic, the text 'CAMPAIGN TO END OBESITY' is written in a blue, serif, all-caps font. Below this, the words 'ACTION FUND' are written in a larger, red, serif, all-caps font.

CAMPAIGN TO END OBESITY ACTION FUND

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

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Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund Applauds Introduction of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015

Washington, D.C. – The Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund applauds Representatives Erik Paulsen (R-MN) and Ron Kind (D-WI) for reintroducing important legislation aimed at addressing obesity in America.

The “Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015” introduced today would ensure that America’s seniors have access to a comprehensive set of needed, effective, and safe tools to help them manage their weight. Joining Representatives Paulsen and Kind in introducing the bipartisan Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015 are 31 of their colleagues from the House of Representatives, including Reps. Brooks (R-IN), Rangel (D-NY), Tipton (R-CO), Ruiz (D-CA), Hastings (D-FL), Guthrie (R-KY), Pocan (D-WI), Blumenauer (D-OR), Roe (R-TN), Lewis (D-GA), Jenkins (R-KS), Peters (D-CA), Israel (D-NY), Black (R-TN), Cardenas (D-CA), Napolitano (D-CA), Davis (D-IL), Benishek (R-MI), Ribble (R-WI), Murphy (R-PA), Young (R-IN), Olson (R-TX), Lance (R-NJ), Roskam (R-IL), Renacci (R-OH), McGovern (D-MA), Blackburn (R-TN), Bonamici (D-OR), Crowley (D-NY), Shimkus (R-IL), and Lujan (D-NM).

Addressing obesity in America is critically important. Consider the impact that the obesity epidemic has on the Medicare program alone: it is estimated that Medicare spends over \$50 billion annually on treating obesity and obesity-related conditions. Unfortunately, this trend is likely to get worse before it gets better, as it is estimated that obesity rates for all Americans will reach 50 percent by 2030.

To address these issues, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015 would allow seniors access to obesity counseling from highly-trained healthcare professionals, and FDA-approved pharmaceuticals for the treatment of obesity. These tools, along with diet, exercise, and, in certain circumstances, surgery, form a comprehensive obesity treatment approach.

“Treating and reducing obesity more effectively combats other chronic conditions that affect our seniors,” said Congressman Erik Paulsen. “Increasing patient access to effective therapies and drugs can make a significant difference in turning the tide against this disease. We can’t solve this problem overnight, but taking bipartisan action now will help us solve our obesity crisis over the long-term.”

“Obesity accounts for nearly 10 percent of all annual medical spending in the United States. Unless we do something to address the obesity epidemic, the costs and harm to public health will only continue to rise,” said Congressman Ron Kind. “The severe health risks of obesity and the actual costs of care for

obesity-related illnesses are alarming. This bipartisan legislation will ensure that seniors and their health care providers have multiple tools to combat the disease and lead longer, healthier lives.”

“There is no one-size-fits-all program that will adequately address the obesity epidemic in America,” said Stephanie Silverman, Director of the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund. “Accordingly, we must ensure that we take an ‘all of the above’ approach to addressing obesity. This includes preventing and treating those with obesity, and ensuring that all treatment approaches are on the table. The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2015 would ensure that seniors have access to proper treatments to combat obesity.”

For more information, please visit the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund’s website at www.obesityactionfund.org.

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About the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund

By bringing together leaders from across industry, academia, and public health with policymakers and their advisors, the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund advocates for needed policy changes to reverse the nation’s costliest disease.