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Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund Applauds Members of Congress Helping to Fight Obesity's Impact on Potential Military Servicepersons

Washington, D.C. – As the nation joins together to remember and thank our veterans, the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund applauds congressional efforts to address the effect of obesity on our Armed Services with Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA) leading a letter to Military Service Chiefs addressing obesity issues with potential military recruits.

America spends nearly 200 billion dollars annually on obesity-related healthcare costs, and nearly one in four Americans are denied enlistment in our Armed Services because of obesity related issues. Over the past 13 years, there has been a 70 percent increase in potential recruits being turned away due to their weight. In light of this, the Armed Services has a vested interest in ensuring that military aged recruits are able to maintain a healthy weight and level of physical fitness. However, there is very little information available to recruits about physical fitness and weight requirements.

Representative Kilmer, joined by his colleagues Representative Ron Kind (D-WI), Jim McGovern (D-MA) and John Garamendi (D-CA), ask for potential military recruits to be provided information, both online and in recruitment offices, on healthy weight and physical fitness requirements.

“We must work to ensure that recruits have the necessary information on weight and physical fitness requirements, both in recruiting offices and websites,” said Stephanie Silverman, co-founder and director of the Campaign to End Obesity’s board of directors. “With nearly 75 percent of Americans aged 17-24 considered unfit to serve in the Armed Services, and obesity being the main non-criminal reason for their denial, this is an issue we cannot ignore.”

By 2030, projections show that nearly 50 percent of Americans will be obese, further decreasing the number of recruits that meet the necessary weight and physical fitness requirements. This is not only an issue of addressing the obesity epidemic in America, it is a national security issue that as a nation we must take steps to address.

For additional information on the effort or the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund's work, please visit <http://www.obesityactionfund.org> .

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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.