



1341 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington DC 20005
202.466.8100 · www.obesityactionfund.org

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

November 9th, 2015

*****Media Contact*****

Chris Fox, (202) 466-8100

Senate Budget Committee Members Introduce Bill to Drive Long-Term CBO Estimates

Measure would vastly improve prospects of effective obesity reduction policies

Washington, D.C. – Today, Senate Budget Committee members Mark Warner (D-VA) and Mike Crapo (R-ID) introduced legislation to give members of Congress a longer term picture of the costs and benefits of health care and other policy measures. The Warner-Crapo proposal—called the *Long-Term Studies of Comprehensive Outcomes and Returns for the Economy Act* (or *Long-Term SCORE Act*)—would provide support to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to enable more regular long-term budget impacts of legislation introduced in Congress. A similar measure was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives Ribble (R-WI) and Pocan (D-WI), and has 31 bipartisan co-sponsors.

The current CBO practice is to provide Congress with a ten-year assessment of how policy proposals will impact the federal budget. Such an approach limits Congress's understanding of the long-term economic benefits of preventive health and other policies.

“In order to fully understand the return on our investments lawmakers must sometimes look beyond the traditional ten-year budget window,” Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) said. “By providing the Congressional Budget Office with flexibility to produce more long-term analyses of policy proposals, Congress can make more informed decisions about which policies may afford taxpayers long-term savings.”

“As lawmakers, we strive to find the balance between approaches that will prevent disease while saving individual lives,” said Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) who, along with Senator Warner, sponsored the legislation. “Through a more complete cost-analysis, lawmakers can make better informed investments to reduce the prevalence of these conditions and limit the costs to taxpayers of treating these diseases.”

Caring for individuals with chronic diseases accounts for 75 percent of all health care spending every year, and obesity is related to over 90 other chronic conditions, including cardiovascular disease, Type II diabetes, cancer, and others. Today, there are over 90 million Americans suffering from obesity—including over 20 million Medicare beneficiaries. Experts estimate that, left unchecked, the obesity rate in America will reach 50 percent in just 15 years.

Accordingly, numerous economic studies—including several commissioned by the Campaign to End Obesity—point to the significant savings achievable by investing in strategies to prevent or mitigate the prevalence of these conditions. “We spend over \$200 billion annually on health care for individuals with obesity and obesity-related conditions,” said Mark Schoeberl, Chairman of the Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund’s Board of Directors. “Studies have shown that investing in evidence-based policies to address obesity has the potential to save billions of dollars over the long-run.”

“Too often, Congress misses opportunities to combat chronic diseases through investments in policies that treat and reduce the prevalence of these conditions and, in doing so, save billions of taxpayer dollars,” continued Schoeberl. “As a country, we cannot afford to keep missing opportunities to rein in the costs associated with caring for obesity and obesity-related diseases, which account for more than 20 percent of annual medical spending. The Long-Term SCORE Act will help us finally realize these savings.”

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

###

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.