



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

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

Chris Fox, (202) 466-8100

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

Washington, D.C. – The Campaign to End Obesity Action Fund applauds Senators Carper (D-DE), Cassidy (R-LA), Grassley (R-IA), Murkowski (R-AK), Heinrich (D-NM) and Coons (D-DE) for today 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.

This legislation is the Senate companion to H.R. 2404 which was introduced in May by a robust bipartisan group of House members, including Reps. Paulsen (R-MN) and Kind (D-WI).

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.

“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.