

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 215

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the United States Congress to pass the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2021.

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health has reported that the obesity epidemic is now the second-leading cause of death in the United States, with an estimated three hundred thousand deaths per year nationally attributed to the epidemic; and

WHEREAS, obesity increases the risk for chronic diseases and conditions including high blood pressure, heart disease, certain cancers, arthritis, mental illness, lipid disorders, sleep apnea, and type two diabetes; and

WHEREAS, over thirty-four percent of rural Americans live with obesity while just under twenty-nine percent of Americans who reside in metropolitan areas live with the condition; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic minority groups have been disproportionately impacted by this epidemic with the highest prevalence of obesity occurring among non-Hispanic blacks (forty-nine and six-tenths percent) followed by Hispanics (forty-four and eight-tenths percent), non-Hispanic whites (forty-two and two-tenths percent), and non-Hispanic Asian adults (seventeen and four-tenths percent); and

WHEREAS, currently, over one trillion four hundred billion dollars are expended annually on direct and indirect costs for treating health conditions related to obesity; and

WHEREAS, on average, measured in 2019 dollars, the annual cost of health care for a Medicare beneficiary with obesity is two thousand eighteen dollars more than the annual cost of health care for a beneficiary of healthy weight; and

WHEREAS, the overall improvement in public health resulting from coverage for obesity treatments would lead to lower expenditures in emergency room care, ambulatory care, inpatient stays, and prescriptions and is estimated to achieve net savings in healthcare costs of approximately seven thousand dollars per person over ten years; and

WHEREAS, utilization of obesity treatments are predicted to generate Medicare budget savings of between eighteen billion dollars and twenty-three billion dollars over ten years; and

WHEREAS, less than one percent of Medicare beneficiaries with obesity are able to access obesity care; and

WHEREAS, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2021 (TROA) has been introduced as H.R. 1577 and S. 596 in the One Hundred Seventeenth United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, this legislation is a real opportunity to help adults living with obesity by making targeted therapies and medications more widely available through Medicare; and

WHEREAS, the Medicare coverage changes proposed by TROA would decrease federal government spending by approximately twenty-five million dollars over the fiscal year 2020 through 2029 budget period; and

WHEREAS, with cosponsors representing both the Democratic and Republican Parties, TROA enjoys bipartisan support in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and Senator Bill Cassidy and Representative Garret Graves of Louisiana are among the cosponsors of this legislation; and

WHEREAS, organizations that have endorsed TROA include the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Academy of PAs, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American Council on Excellence, American Gastroenterological Association, American Medical Group Association, American Psychological Association, American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Black Woman's Health Imperative, Eisai, Endocrine Society, Global Liver Institute, Healthcare Leadership Council, MedTech Coalition for Metabolic Health, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, Novo Nordisk, Obesity Action Coalition, Obesity Medicine Association, Strategies to Overcome and Prevent Obesity Alliance, The Obesity Society, Trust for America's Health, WW International, and YMCA of the USA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to pass the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

---

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES