

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 245

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA).

WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health has reported that obesity is now the second leading cause of death nationally, with an estimated three hundred thousand deaths a year 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 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, 34.2% of rural Americans live with obesity compared to 28.7% of those who live in metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, racial and ethnic minority groups have been disproportionately impacted, with the highest prevalence of obesity among non-Hispanic blacks (49.6%), followed by Hispanics (44.8%) and non-Hispanic whites (42.2%), and non-Hispanic Asian adults (17.4%); and

WHEREAS, currently, \$1.42 trillion is spent each year on direct and indirect costs for health conditions related to obesity; and

WHEREAS, on average in 2019, a Medicare beneficiary with obesity cost two thousand eighteen dollars more than a healthy-weight beneficiary; and

WHEREAS, overall improvement in health conditions from covered obesity treatments would lead to lower expenditures in emergency room care, ambulatory care, inpatient stays, and prescriptions, resulting in net savings between six thousand seven hundred dollars and seven thousand one hundred dollars over ten years per person; and

WHEREAS, utilization of obesity treatments will generate Medicare budget savings between eighteen 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 proposed Medicare coverage changes would decrease federal government spending by approximately twenty-five million dollars over the fiscal years 2020-2029 budget window; and

WHEREAS, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA) authored by Louisiana United States Senator Bill Cassidy is a real opportunity to help adults living with obesity by making targeted therapies and medications more widely available through Medicare; and

WHEREAS, the TROA legislation enjoys bi-partisan support, being co-sponsored by five Republicans in the United States Senate and five Democrats in the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, the following organizations have endorsed TROA: 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 & 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, SECA, Strategies to Overcome and Prevent (STOP) Obesity Alliance, The Obesity Society, Trust for America's Health, WW International, and YMCA of the USA.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE