



NATIONAL GRANGE

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American Values. Hometown Roots.

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman
Health Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
Health Subcommittee
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Committee Leadership:

The National Grange is America's oldest agricultural and rural life advocacy organization. We have 140,000 members in 38 state chapters and 1,400 local chapters across the country. Grange members are the grassroots voice of rural America.

Obesity is related to multiple health issues which can be life threatening as well as require extensive treatment. These include high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Rural residents are more likely than their urban counterparts to die from multiple chronic diseases linked to obesity, heart disease and cancer.

Obesity is more prevalent in rural communities than in urban populations. Various factors likely contribute to rural obesity. These include low levels of income, an older population, lower levels of education, less emphasis on a healthy diet, limited access to health care, low rates of insurance coverage, and distance from services in general.

Because of these demographics, the Grange supports the passage of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA). Rural residents truly are an underserved population. TROA is a giant step forward to allow older adults in greatest need access to anti-obesity medications.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Huber
President