



NATIONAL GRANGE

Elevating rural interests since 1867

1616 H St. NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006

August 1, 2024

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
2188 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Rodgers and Ranking Member Pallone:

On behalf of the National Grange's 140,000 grassroots members in nearly 1,400 local chapters across the country, we urge your committee to pass the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA), H.R. 4818 and S. 2407.

Rural residents face a plethora of disparities in health care compared to their urban counterparts. Obesity is one of those disparities, highlighted by these examples:

- Rural America faces an escalating and costly obesity crisis.
- In the US, the prevalence of adult obesity is nearly 42% according to the CDC.
- Many adults with obesity have other associated chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease.
- Obesity rates in rural America are higher per capita (34.2%) than in urban settings (28.7%)
- Rural Americans are more likely to depend on federal programs like Medicare for their insurance coverage.
- Right now Medicare does not cover the full continuum of obesity care, specifically excluding access to obesity medications that are FDA approved because of prohibitive statutory evidence that is not aligned with the science. TROA can change that.

The Grange was pleased to see TROA pass the House Ways & Means Committee and we support passage of TROA by the House Energy & Commerce Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. This legislation expands Medicare coverage to include anti-obesity medications for seniors transitioning into Medicare and gives continuous access to vital medications for older adults, preventing 1.25 million from losing their coverage over the next decade. In addition, the amended Ways and Means bill calls for a re-evaluation of treatment strategies like diet and exercise counseling, ensuring our seniors receive comprehensive care as they age.

On behalf of our fellow rural residents across America, the National Grange appreciates the opportunity to share our support and urge your committee to pass TROA.

Respectfully,

Christine E. Hamp, President
National Grange