



everyBODYcovered.org



Alliance for Women's Health & Prevention

womenshealthandprevention.org

# obesity care should be covered like any other chronic disease— it's only fair

## To America's Employers,

Led by the EveryBODY Covered campaign and the Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention, we are writing to ask for your support in ensuring that obesity is covered by your health plans just like any other chronic disease.

For many years, obesity has been recognized as a chronic, treatable disease with many causes, including some outside of one's control. Comprehensive obesity coverage should include the full range of evidence-based obesity care options, including medical nutrition therapy, intensive behavioral therapy, bariatric surgery and FDA-approved medications.

**Obesity has a significant impact on women**—particularly women of color—across every stage of life. The disease is associated with over 200 serious health complications, such as sleep apnea, heart disease, diabetes and breast cancer.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

**When coverage for obesity care isn't available, patients are left to seek less safe alternatives or forego treatment altogether.** Employers are financially impacted when obesity is left untreated—obesity costs employers approximately \$425.5 billion annually.<sup>4</sup> Covering obesity care may also help lower costs through reduced absenteeism, increased productivity and a healthier workforce.<sup>5</sup>

**The EveryBODY Covered campaign encourages employers to prioritize obesity within workplace healthcare and equity strategies by:**

- 1 Recognizing obesity as a chronic disease** with causes that include those outside of an individual's control.
- 2 Reviewing your benefits offerings** for opportunities to better support obesity care for your employees and communicate coverage as a priority to your benefits administrators.
- 3 Working against weight bias** at every level of your company and making sure that this is demonstrated through your company's culture.

**We appreciate employers' tireless commitment to employee health** and hope you will answer the call to better support employees living with obesity in the workplace.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention

Aimed Alliance

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Patient Access

Alliance of Sleep Apnea Partners

American Association of Birth Centers

American Association of Nurse Practitioners

American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine

American College of Physicians

American Kidney Fund

American Medical Women's Association

American Nurses Association

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery

American Society of Preventive Cardiology

Association of Black Cardiologists

Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

Arthritis Foundation

BlackDoctor.org

Black Women's Health Imperative

Black Women for Change

Bone Health and Osteoporosis Foundation

Brem Foundation to Defeat Breast Cancer

Caregiver Action Network

Center for Patient Advocacy Leaders

Color of Gastrointestinal Illnesses

ConscienHealth

Creating Healthier Communities

DiabetesSisters

Diabetes Leadership Council

Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition

Gerontological Society of America

Global Liver Institute

GO2 for Lung Cancer

Haven Midwifery Collective

Health Equity Coalition for Chronic Disease

HealthyWomen

Heart Sistas Inc.

MANA, A National Latina Organization

The Mended Hearts, Inc.

National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health

National Black Nurses Association

National Caucus and Center on Black Aging

National Consumers League

National Council on Aging

National Grange

National Hispanic Council on Aging

National Hispanic Health Foundation

National Medical Association

National Menopause Foundation

National Rural Health Association

National Student Nurses' Association

Obesity Action Coalition

Obesity Care Advocacy Network

Obesity Medicine Association

Obesity Medicine Fellowship Council

Partnership to Advance Cardiovascular Health

Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

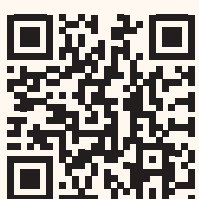
RetireSafe

Society for Women's Health Research

The Obesity Society

TOUCH, The Black Breast Cancer Alliance

WomenHeart



Scan here for more information or visit [everyBODYcovered.org/employers](https://everyBODYcovered.org/employers)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ama-assn.org/topics/obesity>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/obesity/obesity-fact-sheet>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/overweight-and-obesity/women>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.globaldata.com/health-economics/US/Employers/Overweight-Obesity-Impact-on-Employers.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://milkeninstitute.org/content-hub/research-and-reports/reports/modernizing-care-obesity-chronic-disease-how-guide-employers>