

June 16, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chair
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

The 35 undersigned national organizations express their support for the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020. Sponsored by Representatives Eliot Engel and Pete King of New York, this bill would provide access to essential nutrition care services under Medicare Part B.

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) is a multifaceted service that includes nutritional diagnosis, therapy, and counseling for the purpose of disease management. MNT is furnished by a registered dietitian or other qualified nutrition professional and is integral to the prevention, treatment, and management of chronic conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, obesity, malnutrition, eating disorders, and more.

Current law only allows Medicare Part B to cover MNT services for renal disease and diabetes, leaving millions of seniors without access to comprehensive care. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020 would expand Medicare Part B MNT coverage to include prediabetes, obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, celiac disease, HIV/AIDS, and conditions related to unintentional weight loss.

Two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries suffer from multiple chronic conditions. Medical nutrition therapy is a cost-effective part of care for many of these costly conditions. We encourage you and your colleagues to help ensure that seniors have access to care by supporting the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020.

Sincerely,
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
American Association on Health and Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Lifestyle Medicine
American Diabetes Association
American Gastroenterological Association
American Institute for Cancer Research
American Nurses Association
American Optometric Association
American Podiatric Medical Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Nutrition

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists
Balanced
Coalition for Kidney Health
Common Threads
Defeat Malnutrition Today
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Endocrine Society
Food is Medicine Coalition
Global Liver Institute
Healthcare Leadership Council
Healthcare Nutrition Council
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists
National Kidney Foundation
National WIC Association
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity Medicine Association
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Public Health Institute
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
The Obesity Society