

July 12, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo,

The undersigned 47 national organizations express their support for the **Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2021 (S. 1536/H.R. 3108)**. Sponsored by Senators Susan Collins and Gary Peters and Representatives Robin Kelly and Fred Upton, 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, cancer, cardiovascular disease and more.

Current law only allows Medicare Part B to cover MNT services for kidney disease and diabetes, leaving millions of seniors without access to comprehensive care. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2021 would expand Medicare Part B MNT coverage to include prediabetes, obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease, and conditions related to unintentional weight loss.

Two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries suffer from multiple chronic conditions, and many of these conditions are contributing to severe morbidity and mortality from COVID-19. These challenges are even greater for the many racial and ethnic minority communities that have long faced chronic disease health disparities due to socioeconomic inequalities and reduced access to health care, healthy foods and safe places to be active. 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 equitable access to care by supporting the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2021.

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

American Society for Nutrition  
American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition  
American Society for Preventive Cardiology  
American Society of Nephrology  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Balanced  
Celiac Disease Foundation  
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  
MedTech Coalition for Metabolic Health  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialist  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Lipid Association  
National WIC Association  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Obesity Medicine Association  
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Providence Saint Joseph Health  
Public Health Institute  
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness  
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
The Obesity Society  
UsAgainstAlzheimer's