

July 12, 2021

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 Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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 McMorris Rodgers, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

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