

House Bill Key Piece to Address Nutrition Care Gap in America: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and 60+ Health Organizations Call on Congress to Pass MNT Act

CHICAGO – Reintroduced today in the U.S. House of Representatives, the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act is an effective solution to address the costly, continued rise of diet-related chronic diseases in America – many of which can be remedied with medical nutrition therapy (MNT) delivered by a registered dietitian nutritionist (RDN).

"Despite proven success, medical nutrition therapy continues to be underutilized and under covered across our health care system, including Medicare," said Deanne Brandstetter, MBA, RD, CDN, FAND, the Academy's 2025-26 President. "Currently, Medicare covers MNT for people with kidney disease and diabetes. With this bill, coverage of MNT would expand to include other chronic diseases such as obesity and cardiovascular disease, and Americans will see overall health improvements, from weight management and lower blood pressure to improved blood lipids and blood sugar control."

The Academy and the 64 health organizations listed below, thank U.S. Reps. Robin Kelly (Ill.) and Jen Kiggans (Va.), for introducing the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2025 in the 119th U.S. Congress.

Under the proposed bill, MNT coverage under Medicare Part B would be extended to people with:

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular disease
- Dyslipidemia
- Eating disorders
- Gastrointestinal diseases including celiac disease
- HIV/AIDS
- Hypertension



- Prediabetes
- Unintentional weight loss

A recent estimate by Avalere found that if expanded MNT services were covered and utilized, the potential reduction in inpatient and outpatient visits could be associated with savings of over \$33 million per year.

"America's health is at a crossroads and with the current spotlight on nutrition, the time to act is now," Brandstetter said. "Increasing access to MNT provided by RDNs is a practical, cost-effective way to improve health outcomes, prevent complications and reduce health care spending. It's one of many steps we must take to address the nation's health concerns."

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and 64 supporting health organizations call on the MNT Act to be reintroduced in the U.S. Senate and for the bill's swift passage.

Supporting Organizations

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
 Aligned Health Practice
 Alliance of Wound Care Stakeholders
 American Association of Nurse Practitioners
 American Association on Health and Disability
 American College of Lifestyle Medicine
 American College of Preventive Medicine
 American Gastroenterological Association
 American Psychological Association Services
 American Society for Nutrition
 American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition
 Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists
 Berry Street
 California Food is Medicine Coalition
 Celiac Disease Foundation
 Common Threads
 Defeat Malnutrition Today
 Diabetes Leadership Council
 Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
 Dietitian Driven
 Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
 Endocrinology Clinic of Minneapolis
 Evergreen Health and Wellness, LLC
 Fay

Feed the Mass
Flourish Nutrition
FMI - The Food Industry Association
Foodsmart
Gerontological Society of America
Healthcare Nutrition Council
Healthy in the Kitchen, LLC
Healthy Mission Dietitian, Inc.
H-E-B
Hy-Vee, Inc.
Lakeshore Foundation
Lowcountry Street Grocery
MANNA (Metropolitan Area Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance)
Meals on Wheels America
MNT Reimbursement Specialists, Inc.
MySurgeryPlate LLC
National Association of Hispanic Nurses
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Council on Aging
National Kidney Foundation
Neighborly Care Network
Nina's Nutritional Values, LLC
Nutrition Journey
Obesity Action Coalition
Obesity Medicine Association
Open Hand Atlanta
Panhandle Nutrition Therapy
REDC
Rhode Island Nutrition Therapy, LLC
Savor Health
STOP Obesity Alliance
Swap Health
Teaching Kitchen Collaborative
The Community Grocer (TCG Groceries)
The Kroger Co.
The Obesity Society
The Oley Foundation
Trinity Health
Unidos Contra La Diabetes
United Ostomy Associations of America

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Representing more than 112,000 credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals. The Academy is committed to improving the nation's health and advancing the profession of dietetics through research, education and advocacy. Visit the Academy at www.eatright.org.

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New House Bill Key Piece to Address Nutrition Care Gap in America (11/20/2025)

New Academy Position Paper Reinforces the Power of MNT in Chronic Disease Care (11/10/2025)

State Medicaid Coverage for Nutrition Therapy Varies Widely (11/6/2025)

Academy to Honor Six Members with Medallion Awards in Recognition of Service (10/8/2025)

Darlene Dougherty, Dedicated Advocate for the Profession, Receives Academy's Highest Honor (10/8/2025)

Academy Calls for Evidence-Based Solutions in Response to MAHA Strategy Report (9/10/2025)

Leading Health Organizations Call for Nutrition Education to Become a Core Part of Medical Training (9/9/2025)

Academy Launches Nutrition Fact Check to Combat Nutrition Misinformation, Empower Consumers (8/20/2025)

Academy Sounds Alarm on USDA Reorganization: Critical Nutrition Programs at Risk (7/28/2025)



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Reps. Kelly, Kiggans introduce Medical Nutrition Therapy Act

November 20, 2025 [Press Release](#)

WASHINGTON – Today, Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL-02) and Congresswoman Jen Kiggans (VA-02) introduced the bipartisan [Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2025](#) to expand Medicare coverage for medical nutrition plans and addressing health disparities.

"Far too many people in underserved communities experience adverse health outcomes due to limited access to healthcare, healthy foods, and opportunities for exercise," **said Rep. Robin Kelly, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust.** "Medical nutrition therapy is a proven method for managing and alleviating symptoms of many chronic illnesses and diseases beyond diabetes and kidney diseases. It is essential that Congress ensures affordable access to this proven treatment for all diseases related to nutrition. Through this legislation, I'm committed to expanding access to nutritious foods for everyone."

"I'm proud to join Rep. Kelly in leading the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2025. As a nurse practitioner, I've seen firsthand how often the value of medical nutrition therapy is overlooked—and yet how important it is for patients, especially our older population," **said Rep. Kiggans.** "This legislation takes an important step forward by expanding access to MNT for patients living with multiple chronic conditions, helping them better manage their health and improve their quality of life. Our seniors and families deserve every tool available to stay healthy, and expanding access to proven, preventive care like MNT is a commonsense way to do just that."

Currently, Medicare only covers medical nutrition therapy for patients with diabetes or renal disease. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2025 will provide Medicare beneficiaries with greater access to registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) by expanding the availability of nutrition services under Medicare Part B.

This expansion would include coverage for the following diseases: diabetes and prediabetes; renal disease; obesity; hypertension; dyslipidemia; malnutrition; eating disorders; cancer; gastrointestinal diseases, including celiac disease; HIV and AIDS; cardiovascular disease; and any other disease or condition specified by the Secretary related to unintentional weight loss.

Furthermore, the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act will authorize nurse practitioners, physician assistants, clinical nurse specialists, and psychologists to refer their patients for medical nutrition therapy.

[The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act](#) is endorsed by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

"Despite proven success, medical nutrition therapy (MNT) continues to be underutilized and under covered across our health care system, including Medicare," **said Deanne Brandstetter, MBA, RD, CDN, FAND, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' 2025-26 President.** "Currently, Medicare covers MNT for people with kidney disease and diabetes. With this bill, coverage of MNT would expand to include other chronic diseases such as obesity and cardiovascular disease, and Americans will see overall health improvements, from weight management and lower blood pressure to improved blood lipids and blood sugar control. America's health is at a crossroads and with the current spotlight on nutrition, the time to act is now. The Academy applauds Representatives Kelly and Kiggans for leading the charge to increase access to MNT provided by registered dietitians, a practical, cost-effective way to improve health outcomes, prevent complications and reduce health care spending. It's one of many steps we must take to address the nation's health concerns."

[Read the full bill text here.](#)

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