



Improving access.
Transforming health.

June 18, 2025

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
498 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Luján:

On behalf of the Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation and the patients and families we assist, I write in support of S.1973, the *Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA)*. PAN commends your leadership in reintroducing this critical legislation that will help ensure that comprehensive obesity care is within reach for millions of Medicare beneficiaries in need.

As a leading charitable foundation and healthcare advocacy organization, the PAN Foundation is dedicated to accelerating access to treatment for those who need it most and empowering patients on their healthcare journeys. We provide critical financial assistance for treatment costs, advocate for policy solutions that expand access to care, and deliver education on complex topics—all driven by our belief that everyone deserves access to affordable, equitable healthcare.

As you know, Medicare is largely barred from covering FDA-approved anti-obesity medications (AOMs) under Part D, including GLP-1 therapies. This coverage gap limits access to life-enhancing treatments for over two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries living with obesity, who also face increased risk for over 230 serious health complications such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers. Even those with access to AOMs often report having to ration, skip, or discontinue their medication due to high out-of-pocket costs, contributing to worse health outcomes and higher utilization of healthcare services.

Allowing Medicare to provide obesity care is not only life-saving—it is cost-saving. Obesity costs the U.S. healthcare system nearly \$173 billion per year, with Medicare and Medicaid shouldering approximately one-fourth of these costs. Obesity and related chronic conditions also drive 90% of the nation's \$4.5 trillion in yearly health spending. Research shows that a 5% weight loss could save \$1,262 per person each year, with savings exceeding \$5,000 at greater reductions. Expanded Medicare coverage of obesity care is vital to improving health outcomes and securing long-term savings for the U.S. healthcare system and taxpayer.

The PAN Foundation appreciates your leadership in seeking solutions to increase access to and affordability of health care for more Americans. We look forward to working with you to educate on the importance of passing the *Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA)*. If you would like further information or have questions, please contact Amy Niles, Chief Mission Officer at aniles@panfoundation.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin L. Hagan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" being the most prominent.

Kevin L. Hagan
President and Chief Executive Officer