

# The Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (H.R. 2404, S.1509)

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**Problem - Obesity:** The nation is paying the price for overlooking the importance of food and nutrition. Key takeaways:

1. More than 35% of adults are living with obesity and an additional 33% are overweight. This represents more than 2/3 of the adult population.
2. One out of every eight deaths in America is caused by an illness directly related to obesity.
3. By 2040, it is estimated that over 50% of adults will be living with obesity and the Medicare population is the fastest growing demographic with obesity.
4. Obesity costs \$210 billion/year and \$64 billion/year to Medicare.

**Solution - A Bipartisan Bill (H.R. 2404, S.1509):**

This bill is a clinically and economically effective solution to tackle obesity. Numerous co-sponsors in House and Senate from both parties (see FAQs).

1. Clinically Effective: Removes *unnecessary* barriers to
  - (1) allow a variety of qualified practitioners, such as RDs, to effectively treat and reduce obesity through Intensive Behavior Therapy (IBT); and
  - (2) authorize coverage for FDA approved weight loss drugs to complement IBT.

Research: RDs 2x as likely to help patients lose significant weight and increase exercise.

Experts agree: RDs are the most qualified food and nutrition experts, according to Institute of Medicine (IOM), MDs, and the US Preventative Services Task Force (USPSTF).

2. Cost Effective:
  - (1) RDs bill less than other providers, leading to better results at a lower cost.
  - (2) The bill allows for coordinated care by increasing efficiency & efficacy.
  - (3) Improve healthcare quality & decrease costs.

Personal Story: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Ask:** Please co-sponsor the bill (H.R. 2404, S. 1509) and encourage chairmen to move it to the floor for a vote.

**Invite** member of Congress to visit your [clinic, hospital, practice] to see an RDN in action.

Thank you for your time.