

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

## **Briefing: The Economics of the Obesity Epidemic**

### **Campaign to End Obesity Economic Study: “Assessing the Economics of Obesity and Obesity Interventions”**

*The considerable and growing costs associated with treating U.S. obesity and its associated conditions threaten the viability of the health care system. Related medical costs reached an estimated \$147 billion in 2009, with half paid by Medicare and Medicaid. Today, 1 in 3 adults and nearly 1 in 5 children struggle with obesity, making this epidemic an economic policy priority.*

Dear Colleague:

Please join the Congressional Task Force on Childhood Obesity on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00 pm in 1302 Longworth House Office Building for a Congressional briefing on the findings of a new economic study to be issued by the Campaign to End Obesity, with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The briefing will provide an opportunity for policymakers to hear from former Bush Administration health and economic officials about the economic imperative of addressing the obesity epidemic, challenges posed by the Congressional Budget Office scoring process as it relates to prevention, and budget scoring adjustments needed to more adequately capture the costs and potential savings of obesity interventions. The information shared in this briefing will help Congressional offices understand what role the federal government can play in this arena.

Members, staff and delegates from key organizations are encouraged to attend the briefing and join the conversation.

**WHAT:** Campaign to End Obesity Economic Study: “Assessing the Economics of Obesity and Obesity Interventions”

**WHO:** **Tevi Troy, PhD**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute; Former Deputy Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2007-2009) and Deputy Assistant and Acting Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy (2005-2007)

**Michael O’Grady, PhD**, Senior Fellow for Health Care Research, National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago and Principal, O’Grady Health Policy, LLC; formerly Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2003-2005)

**Jim Marks, MD, MPH**, Senior Vice President and Director, Health Group, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; former Director, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control (1995-2004)

**Lee M. Kaplan, MD, PhD**, Director, Obesity, Metabolism & Nutrition Institute, Massachusetts General Hospital, Associate Professor, Harvard Medical School, Chairman Emeritus, Campaign to End Obesity

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**WHERE:** 1302 Longworth House Office Building

If you have any questions, please contact Casey Miller in Rep. Fudge's office at [casey.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:casey.miller@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi  
Member of Congress



Ron Kind  
Member of Congress



David G. Reichert  
Member of Congress