



## **Congressional Workshop Series: THE INTERSECTION OF OBESITY POLICY AND SCIENCE**

*Tuesday, November 16th, 428 Russell Senate Office Building*

### **BACKGROUND**

Obesity is one of the most costly diseases affecting America's adults and children. In fact, it is the single greatest contributing factor to every other major chronic disease afflicting Americans today. This year, Congress enacted health care reform legislation that included a strong focus on prevention —particularly obesity—demonstrating that promoting health and wellness, particularly among children from a young age is a key priority of Congress.

This briefing will review the science behind obesity and overweight from birth to adulthood. Studies show that poor infant nutrition can lead to unhealthy weight gain in children.

However, health care reform—and other legislative initiatives— have not addressed strategies to prevent excessive weight during infancy as well as how to diagnose and treat the growing number of U.S. children and adults afflicted with obesity. While many widely accepted methods and approaches exist to treat and prevent overweight and obesity, including nutrition counseling, increased physical activity and prescription and surgical interventions, these tools have yet to be incorporated in our nation's health care policies nor covered by public and private payors.

### **THE WORKSHOP**

The workshop will help Members of Congress and their staff, as well as key members of the public health community, academia and industry identify policy solutions for addressing obesity by answering these questions:

#### **What Does Science Say About Unhealthy Weight Gain in Infants and Children?**

- What are early indicators for obesity in infants and children?
- What steps can be taken during infancy to avoid unhealthy weight gain?
- What role does infant nutrition play in excessive weight gain?
- What are the main causes and influences for overweight and obesity in children?
- What is the role of parents and physicians in diagnosing, preventing and treating overweight and obesity?
- How early should overweight and obesity prevention begin?
- What are the long term effects if childhood obesity is not treated?

#### **What Does the Science Tell Us About Diagnosing, Preventing and Treating Adult Overweight and Obesity?**

- What issues contribute to an adult's overweight or obesity?
- What is the role of physicians in diagnosing and treating overweight and obesity?
- What is the role of pharmaceutical and surgical interventions in treating overweight and obesity?
- In addition to science, are there behavioral changes that need to occur in the battle against overweight and obesity?

#### **CONCLUSION: What Is the Role of Federal Policy in Adopting These Innovations?**

## **Workshop Details**

### **“The Intersection of Obesity Policy and Science”**

Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

8:30 – 11 a.m.

428A Russell Senate Office Building

Space is limited. Response requested by Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

RSVP to Chris Fox at [chris@obesitycampaign.org](mailto:chris@obesitycampaign.org), or 202-466-5524.



*The Campaign to End Obesity cordially invites you to participate as a  
DELEGATE at our*

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***\*\*This invitation is non-transferrable.\*\****