

June 16, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chair  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chair  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Ranking Member  
Energy and Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Walden, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

The 35 undersigned national organizations express their support for the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020. Sponsored by Representatives Eliot Engel and Pete King of New York, this bill would provide access to essential nutrition care services under Medicare Part B.

Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT) is a multifaceted service that includes nutritional diagnosis, therapy, and counseling for the purpose of disease management. MNT is furnished by a registered dietitian or other qualified nutrition professional and is integral to the prevention, treatment, and management of chronic conditions such as diabetes, kidney disease, obesity, malnutrition, eating disorders, and more.

Current law only allows Medicare Part B to cover MNT services for renal disease and diabetes, leaving millions of seniors without access to comprehensive care. The Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020 would expand Medicare Part B MNT coverage to include prediabetes, obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, malnutrition, eating disorders, cancer, celiac disease, HIV/AIDS, and conditions related to unintentional weight loss.

Two-thirds of Medicare beneficiaries suffer from multiple chronic conditions. Medical nutrition therapy is a cost-effective part of care for many of these costly conditions. We encourage you and your colleagues to help ensure that seniors have access to care by supporting the Medical Nutrition Therapy Act of 2020.

Sincerely,  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American College of Lifestyle Medicine  
American Diabetes Association  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Institute for Cancer Research  
American Nurses Association  
American Optometric Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Nutrition

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Balanced  
Coalition for Kidney Health  
Common Threads  
Defeat Malnutrition Today  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action  
Endocrine Society  
Food is Medicine Coalition  
Global Liver Institute  
Healthcare Leadership Council  
Healthcare Nutrition Council  
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs  
National Board of Physician Nutrition Specialists  
National Kidney Foundation  
National WIC Association  
Obesity Action Coalition  
Obesity Medicine Association  
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
Public Health Institute  
Redstone Global Center for Prevention and Wellness  
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
The Obesity Society