

RESOLUTION

Subject: Expanding Insurance Coverage of Anti-Obesity Pharmaceuticals

Submitted by: Claire Tinkler (MSS) and Monalisa Tailor, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, obesity affects millions of adults in the state of Kentucky, putting them at risk for chronic illness such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, according to a study in the New England Journal of Medicine, the Kentucky obesity rate is projected to reach 54.8% by 2030¹; and

WHEREAS, according to data from the CDC, obesity related medical costs \$173 billion annually in the United States²; and

WHEREAS, the prescription of GLP-1 anti-obesity medications under proper supervision by a primary care physician or equivalent healthcare provider can improve obesity and obesity-related conditions when combined with lifestyle changes focusing on appropriate nutrition, exercise, and sleep; and

WHEREAS, almost 1.5 million Kentuckians rely on Medicaid for healthcare coverage³; and

WHEREAS, thirteen other states cover GLP-1 prescription coverage for obesity treatment under their state Medicaid programs as of August 2024⁴; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with American Medical Association policy supporting elimination of coverage exclusions for pharmacological treatment of obesity, and to support and cover chronic treatment of obesity with anti-obesity medications to maintain weight loss⁵; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports legislation to ensure coverage for long-term pharmacologic obesity treatment and to ensure that coverage is not removed once patients reach their weight loss goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this anti-obesity pharmaceutical coverage be included under Kentucky Medicaid.

References

1. <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1909301>
2. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0247307>
3. <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/stats/KYDWMCC202505.pdf>
4. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-coverage-of-and-spending-on-glp-1s/>¹
5. https://www.ama-assn.org/forums/house-delegates/reference-committee-b/res-230-advocating-expand-private-insurance-coverage?check_logged_in=1