



August 9, 2021

*Wayne A. Smith*  
President & CEO

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1724 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blunt Rochester,

*Alfred I. duPont Hospital  
for Children*  
Mark Mumford,  
Executive Vice President  
Chief Executive,  
Nemours Delaware  
Valley Operations

The Delaware Healthcare Association (DHA) recognizes that obesity negatively affects quality of life and increases the risk that an individual will develop one or more associated diseases. Obesity increases the risk of impairment, illness, premature death, and inability to enjoy fully otherwise normal and expected life activities assumed absent obesity.

*Bayhealth*  
Terry Murphy,  
President & CEO

Therapeutic treatment, procedures, and pharmacological interventions to combat obesity in patients. Our member hospitals and associated clinicians offer a range of treatments to address obesity issues and assist patients with weight reduction and management.

*Beebe Healthcare*  
David A. Tam,  
MD, MBA,  
President & CEO

Cost of treatment and lack of insurance coverage can affect access to these potentially lifesaving and life enhancement interventions to address obesity in individuals.

*ChristianaCare*  
Janice E. Nevin,  
MD, MPH  
President & CEO

DHA is pleased to support H.R. 1577, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA). We understand TROA will:

*TidalHealth Nanticoke*  
Penny Short, MSM, BSN,  
RN  
President & CEO

(1) Expand Medicare benefits for intensive behavioral counseling through community-based programs and additional types of healthcare providers, including: dietitians, psychologists and specialty physicians.

(2) Expand coverage of FDA-approved prescription drugs for chronic weight management.

*Saint Francis Healthcare*

We support H.R. 1577 with the understanding that additional financial support would pay for implementation of TROA, as opposed to financing TROA through reduction in other existing Medicare programs. Too often we have witnessed desirable Medicare expansion proposed to be financed with redirection of existing Medicare program support, in an attempt to maintain budget neutrality. These types of schemes deprive others of health care access and must be avoided.

*Wilmington Veterans  
Affairs Medical Center*  
Vincent Kane  
Director

*Delaware Healthcare  
Association*  
Wayne A. Smith  
President & CEO

We are pleased to support H.R. 1577 and ask you to consider supporting this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Wayne A. Smith'.

Wayne A. Smith