**OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

**CONGRESS OF MEMBERS**

**76th ANNUAL MEETING**

**April 15, 2023**

**Resolution #6**

**INTRODUCED BY: Elizabeth Powers MD, MHA, FAAFP, FACHE, Past-President of the OAFP, on behalf of the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization’s Clinical Advisory Panel**

**SUBJECT: Treatment of Overweight and Obesity**

**WHEREAS,** the prevalence of overweight and obesity in the United States is approaching 50%1and accounts for at least $174 billion in annual excess health care spending2-4; and

**WHEREAS,** obesity is a major contributor to serious chronic diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, sleep apnea and degenerative joint disease and thus a major contributor to poor health outcomes5,6; and

**WHEREAS,** those with obesity have higher risks for stroke, many types of cancer, premature death and mental illness5-9; and

**WHEREAS,** modern medicine recognizes obesity as a chronic disease resulting from both genetic and environmental factors rather than from moral failure10; and

**WHEREAS,** the best available evidence suggests that modification of diet and exercise alone is unlikely to result in long-term benefit5,6; and

**WHEREAS,** the treatment of obesity has progressed to the point where an individualized approach utilizing a combination of behavioral, surgical, and pharmacological interventions is considered the standard of care11-13 and can be successful; and

**WHEREAS,** other, newer pharmacological treatments include medications that are very expensive11,14 and whose cost exceeds that in other countries; and

**WHEREAS,** obesity disproportionately impacts some racial and ethnic minority groups15; and

**WHEREAS,** currently third-party payors, including Medicare16, many state Medicaid programs, and many commercial insurance companies do not cover prescriptions for weight loss resulting in inequities in care and further disparities in obesity-related outcomes; and

**WHEREAS,** Oregon’s current 1115 Medicaid Waiver precludes the coverage of the pharmacologic treatment of obesity; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

**RESOLVED,** that the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians join with other medical societies to introduce legislation in the state of Oregon to ensure commercial insurance coverage for evidence-based treatment of obesity for Oregon’s citizens, and BE IT FURTHER

**RESOLVED,** that the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians introduce a resolution to the AAFP Congress of Delegates to lobby Congress to advance equity in obesity treatment and to ensure insurance coverage for evidence-based treatment of obesity is available across the United States.

AMENDMENT accepted. ADOPTED AS AMENDED.

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