



Supportive Quotes

“Assessing the Economics of Obesity and Obesity Interventions”

Campaign to End Obesity

“This study makes the much-needed business case for national policies that will help reverse the U.S. obesity epidemic, and provides guidance on the best strategies to treat and prevent America’s costliest medical condition.”

- *Karen Licitra, Campaign to End Obesity Board Chair and Worldwide Chair, Global Medical Solutions Group, Johnson & Johnson*

U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)

“There are no simple solutions to solving the nation’s obesity epidemic. We all know that we need to make it easier for kids and parents to eat right, be physically active, and have easy access to preventive healthcare. Unfortunately, policymakers are hampered by our short-term approach to budgeting. As this report suggests, we need to evaluate the cost of chronic disease over the long-term and consider solutions in that context. Only then can my colleagues and I understand the growing impact of obesity-related health care costs and the benefits of investing today to generate long-term savings.”

- *U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)*

U.S. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (D-OH)

“This is the ultimate win-win. I would like to thank Mr. O’Grady for his thoughtful analysis released today showing some of the cost savings and how we might be able to fully realize the potential of these programs. Thoughtful analysis like this is enormously helpful to policymakers – especially at a time when all programs are measured by their cost. We need to be sure that we’re investing in what works.”

- *U.S. Congresswoman Marcia Fudge (D-OH)*



American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)

"One in three cancer deaths are due to overweight and obesity, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity. Unfortunately, it can be difficult to make the case for public policy changes due to the way in which the impact of public health programs are measured. ACS CAN is pleased to see the release of new research on evidence-based, cost-effective policies and programs to reduce obesity and how the CBO scoring system might be modified to better address these kinds of public health issues."

- *Christopher W. Hansen, President, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)*

Healthcare Leadership Council

"With \$147 billion in obesity-related health care costs on the line each year—a number that stands to grow substantially—now is the time to reverse the obesity epidemic, and thoughtful approaches like those outlined by Capretta and O’Grady can show the way. They have taken the most sound, peer-reviewed economic data out there and given policymakers valuable tools to help in turning around the obesity epidemic."

- *Mary R. Grealy, President, Healthcare Leadership Council*

International Health, Racquet & Sportsclub Association

"IHRSA applauds the balanced, solution-oriented approach of this study. The fitness industry has long believed that primary prevention--including regular exercise and good nutrition--is the most cost-effective solution to obesity and other lifestyle-related chronic diseases. Programs targeted at primary prevention make long-term fiscal sense for Americans and for America--not only in terms of their potential for long-term savings on health care, but also in terms of protecting our country's economic competitiveness."

- *Helen Durkin, Executive Vice-President, Global Public Policy*



Trust for America's Health

"Obesity is one of the biggest drivers of preventable chronic diseases and health care costs in the country. This report reminds us that we have interventions that work against obesity. This makes the investments in the Affordable Care Act so much more important – particularly the Prevention and Public Health Fund and the Community Transformation Grants – which support the very interventions this report highlights as successful and could well bend the health care cost curve. We know that obesity affects health care costs over a longer period than the traditional 10 year window that CBO uses. The Congress and Executive Branch need to make a policy decision to think in the longer term."

- *Jeff Levi, PhD, Executive Director, Trust for America's Health*

National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity

"Research such as this is important because it highlights the risks we face if we fail to engage society at large in physical activity. It also points out the inherent challenges in a 10-year budget scoring system that rewards spending cuts now in critically needed federal programs while ignoring investments in programs that can produce potentially enormous budget savings in the second and third 10 year budget windows, 20 and 30 years from now. Congress should fix this."

- *Melissa Merson, Executive Director, National Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity*

Nemours

"Every single sector of our society – our government, our communities, our clinical and public health systems, our child care centers and schools, and our workplaces – has felt the serious health and economic implications of the obesity epidemic. This analysis has demonstrated that cost effective solutions do exist. For the sake of our economy, and our health, the U.S. must take a long-term approach in how we evaluate the benefit of prevention."

- *Debbie Chang, Vice President, Policy and Prevention, Nemours*