

Bill Number: H.R. 4231 / S. 1973

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-16]

Title of Bill: Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2025

Current Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4231>

Status: House – 06/27/2025 Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Summary: This bill expands Medicare coverage of intensive behavioral therapy for obesity. Specifically, the bill allows coverage for therapy that is provided by (1) a physician who is not a primary care physician; or (2) other health care providers (e.g., physician assistants and nurse practitioners) and approved counseling programs, if provided upon a referral from, and in coordination with, a physician or primary care practitioner. Currently, such therapy is covered only if provided by a primary care practitioner.

P&A Committee Insights:

- To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.
- Medicare part D coverage of obesity medications.
- Bipartisan legislation to ensure Medicare Beneficiaries can access safe, effective, and life-saving treatments for obesity. This bill has 65 co-sponsors.
- Authority to expand healthcare providers qualified to furnish intensive behavioral therapy (including Pa NP, CNS, Clinical Psychologist, Registered dietitian, and nutritional professional (as defined by subsection (vv)))
- Affects 40% of adults 60+ and is linked to numerous chronic disease, including heart disease, diabetes, and certain cancers.
- Bill's primary goal is to expand access to evidence based obesity treatments to address the rising healthcare costs association with obesity among Medicare beneficiaries.

Position: Support

Priority: High

Subject: Access to healthcare