



January 3, 2024

The Honorable Susan Eggman
Chair, Senate Health Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3310
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 839 (Bradford) - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Eggman,

On behalf of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), I am writing to express our support for SB 839 – the Obesity Treatment Parity Act, to ensure access to all options for the treatment of obesity. I am also a resident of California myself.

AMWA works to improve the health of women and over the past few years has been working to address the growing epidemic of obesity, in particular its impact on women and cardiometabolic health. We held a stakeholder roundtable in 2021 ([view proceedings here](#)) and a Congressional briefing in December 2023 ([view recording here](#)).

Obesity has been recognized as a chronic disease by renowned medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, for nearly a decade. Likewise, the Center for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have been addressing the growing rates of obesity, both nationally and globally. This year, several medical organizations, including the AMA, have updated their obesity guidelines and practices to reflect the innovative treatments that we now have available to our patients. The federal Office of Personnel Management began requiring obesity care and treatment, inclusive of pharmacotherapy options, for all federal employees effective January 1, 2023. The Veterans Affairs health system and military insurance benefits cover obesity treatment as well. We are thrilled to see a bill in California to address treatment of obesity.

Obesity is not only a chronic disease in itself, but it is also a risk factor for a host of other chronic diseases. Increased access to treatment will have a significant benefit to improve health outcomes for Californians, not to mention the cost savings from complications related to obesity.

AMWA is proud to support The Obesity Treatment Parity Act, which would make sure that Californians have access to equal health care and treatment of obesity as they would for any other chronic condition. SB 839 will ensure Californians have all treatment options available for the chronic disease of obesity.

We encourage your Committee's approval of this important legislation. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Lo Chin, MD".

Eliza Lo Chin, MD, MPH
Executive Director
American Medical Women's Association

American Medical Women's Association

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