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September 4, 2024

Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

The Global Liver Institute (GLI) and members of the Liver Action Network urge the Senate Finance Committee to advance H.R. 4818, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA). It is imperative for Congress to take a significant step forward in expanding access to obesity care for older Americans. We support the efforts of the obesity community to work with the Senate Finance Committee on legislation that will extend coverage as broadly as possible in the current Congress. We are reaching out to share the united support of the liver disease community for the legislation.

This legislation is particularly vital when considering the strong connection between obesity and related health issues such as nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), also known as metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease (MASLD), and its advanced form, nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), also known as metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH). With over 148 million people worldwide suffering from NASH/MASH, and the prevalence of obesity expected to rise, expanding access to effective treatments is crucial. Research has closely linked the presence of NASH/MASH to metabolic comorbidities such as obesity and diabetes. Without treatment, by 2035<sup>1</sup>, it's projected that 1 in 4 individuals will be obese<sup>2</sup>. Changing the trajectory of these numbers is essential and requires comprehensive and evidence-based approaches to address NASH/MASH and obesity disease care.

Advancing the bill into law will require strong bipartisan support. As the liver disease community, we recognize that this expanded coverage maintaining access to essential obesity medications is going to also reduce the risk factors for developing NASH/MASH.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldobesityday.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://aasldpubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hep.28431>

While we recognize the varying opinions in Congress regarding the scope and cost implications of this legislation, we urge the Senate take action to advance the most comprehensive coverage possible in this Congress. Doing so is a powerful step toward closing the gaps in liver health.

Therefore, we urge the Senate Finance Committee to move this legislation forward and we stand ready to provide any support necessary to ensure its successful passage. Please reach out to Jeff McIntyre, GLI Vice President for Liver Health Programs, for additional information at [jmcintyre@globalliver.org](mailto:jmcintyre@globalliver.org).

Sincerely,

Global Liver Institute  
Liver Coalition of California  
Liver Health Foundation  
Mid South Liver Alliance  
NASH KNOWledge  
Texas Liver Foundation  
TRIO-Oklahoma

### **About Global Liver Institute**

Global Liver Institute (GLI) was built to solve the problems that matter to liver patients, equipping advocates to improve the lives of individuals and families impacted by liver disease. GLI promotes innovation, encourages collaboration, and supports the scaling of optimal approaches to help eradicate liver diseases. GLI believes liver health must take its place on the global public health agenda commensurate with the prevalence and impact of liver illness. GLI is the only patient-created, patient-driven nonprofit organization tackling liver health and all liver disease holistically, operating globally. Follow GLI on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).



