

A-1970

Brief Description:

Requires managed care plans to cover treatment of overweight and obesity in adults on fee-for-service basis. (2008:A1931; 2006:A1613)

Sponsor: A1970 Conaway (D-7)

Reasons to Support:

- Literature suggests that weight loss and weight maintenance therapies that provide a greater frequency of contacts between the patient and the practitioner and are provided over the long term should be utilized whenever possible. This can lead to more successful weight loss and weight maintenance."
- The bill requires affected insurers to cover the applicable services on a fee-for-service basis in order to make it feasible for participating providers to offer these services on a schedule that will be most effective in meeting the therapeutic objectives of this treatment.
- In 2006, an estimated 73% of adults in this country were either overweight or obese.
- Overweight and obese persons are at risk for such many co-morbidities resulting from obesity. This bill would allow the providers to bill for every patient encounter.

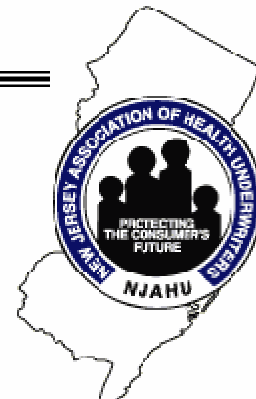
Reasons to Oppose:

- This bill eliminates an important tool for Managed Care carriers to manage the cost of care (capitation).
- This bill will significantly increase the cost of providing care for obese members.
- This bill won't improve access to care. It will increase the revenue for the providers treating obese patients. As a result premium costs will increase and fewer employees will be able to afford coverage.

NJAHU Position:

OPPOSE (2.27.2010)

Status 2/8/2010 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee



Legislative Briefing