

*Advancing Surgical Care
through Advocacy*

Annual Report 2015-2016

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I. Mission Statement

The ObesityPAC's mission is to preserve, protect and defend the inalienable right of the patient with obesity to have safe, effective, equitable and affordable access to care in all of the United States.

II. Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleague,

I want to thank you for your service on behalf of our patients in need. As bariatric surgeons and bariatric surgery team members, we are all first responders to the obesity crisis. As first responders, we are on the front line of this public health challenge. As innovators and pioneers in the treatment of obesity, we often face challenges in both the understanding of the disease of obesity as well as coverage for its treatment. We also live in a unique time in medicine whereby decisions in medicine are often made not by those who practice medicine but by administrators and regulators.

Over 60% of medicine is directly government funded (Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Tricare, Indian Health Service, Federal/State Employees) and the remainder of medicine is 100% influenced and regulated by government. Medicine is a de facto government enterprise and we must be represented. Our best hope to have our voice heard is to stand present and accounted for in the political process by amplifying our political voice through the *ObesityPAC*. We will endeavor to find every advantage to have our patients' interest be heard. The *ObesityPAC* needs your help materially to have influence in this process.

You all work so hard to improve the health and welfare of our vulnerable patients. Please give us the opportunity to help you to achieve the highest of your professional ideals- to care for the patient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Morton", written in a cursive style.

John Morton, MD, FASMBS
Chair, *ObesityPAC* Board of Directors

Stanford, CA



III. *ObesityPAC* Board, 2015-2016



John Morton, MD FASMBS
Chair, *ObesityPAC*
Stanford, CA
Bariatric Surgeon



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Gainesville, FL
ASMBS Executive Director, Registered Dietician



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Board Member
Washington, D.C.
Potomac Currents, President



John D. Scott
Board Member
Greenville, S.C.
Bariatric Surgeon



IV. *ObesityPAC* Goals, 2015-2016

- Ensure there is coverage for all forms of bariatric surgery treatment in all forms of health care
- Allow for affordable coverage through equitable patient responsibility (eliminate high deductibles)
- Safeguard safety of bariatric surgery through input upon all quality regulatory issues
- Create a national quality measure through National Quality Forum that requires all patients who have an appropriate BMI to have counseling regarding bariatric surgery
- Remove corporate impediments to sound medical care (pre-operative weight loss requirements by insurers)
- Create safe harbors to allow for discussion and creation of appropriate bundled payments
- Provide oversight of national self-insured corporations creating national networks to ensure adequate follow-up and access
- Work towards coverage of the entire continuum of care for the obese patient from counseling to medications to endoscopy to surgery
- Establish a sound prevention strategy that is linked to treatment
- Generate strong research funding base for the mechanisms and best practices of obesity prevention and treatment
- Identify and support candidates who are supportive of the ***ObesityPAC* Mission Statement** regardless of political orientation
- Develop and sustain member interest in the political process as advocates, participants, and candidates
- Bring a national focus to local issues to ensure that advocacy occurs locally and nationally
- At least 5% Surgeon Member Participation and \$ 100,000 raised annually
- 100% support from ASMBS leadership through the Executive Council, State Chapter Presidents, and Committee Chairs

V. **LEAD Advocacy Award Recipient Sponsored by the ObesityPAC**



Please congratulate **Dr. Chris Joyce** as the inaugural recipient of the 2016 **ObesityPAC** Advocacy Award. This cash prize was awarded at the LEAD Luncheon in New Orleans and recognized Dr. Joyce's seminal work in establishing ASMSB state chapters in all 50 states as ASMBS State Chapter Committee Chair and removing the preoperative weight loss requirement for Blue Cross of Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico as the Illinois ASMBS State Chapter President.

**VI. Inaugural *ObesityPAC* Donor Recognition Event @
ObesityWeek 2016, New Orleans**



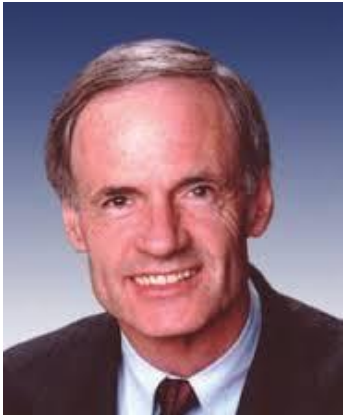
**Dr. John Morton and
Sen. Bill Cassidy**



**Dr. Stacy Brethauer and
Sen. Bill Cassidy**

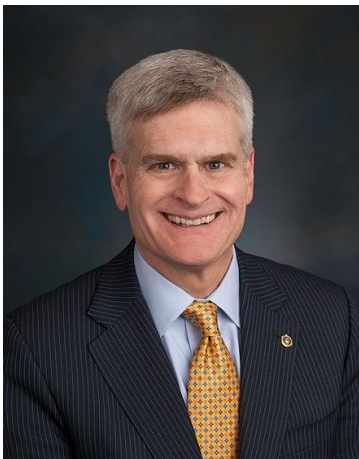
An *ObesityPAC* goal is to leverage our annual meeting to meet with local representatives in their own backyard and advocate for our patients. To create a personal connection with an elected representative is invaluable in securing an audience with these policy makers. We are able to meet these policy makers and at the same time recognize our top contributors to the *ObesityPAC* at a premium event befitting our high ideals and purpose. We accomplished these goals in New Orleans by enlisting Dr. Bill Cassidy (gastroenterologist) to our avowed purpose of securing access of care for our patient with obesity and enjoying the best of New Orleans cuisine and spirits. Join us next year in Washington DC for another first-class event.

VII. ObesityPAC Recipient Honorees



Senator Tom Carper (D-DE)

Senator Carper is a leader on obesity issues in the United States Senate. Over the last 5 years, he has led the charge to pass the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act — legislation that he has introduced in the Senate during the last three Congresses. Senator Carper also recently introduced a Senate resolution to designate October 30 - November 5, 2016 as National Obesity Care Week. He is a former two-term Governor of Delaware and a current member of the Senate Finance Committee, which oversees the Medicare program.



Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Senator Cassidy is a gastroenterologist who specializes in treating liver disease. Dr. Cassidy recently won election to the United States Senate after serving in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2009-2015. On the House side, he was a member of the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee. During his time in the House, Dr. Cassidy was the lead Republican sponsor of the House version of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act — a leadership role he has continued since moving to the Senate when he joined with Senator Carper (D-DE) in introducing the Senate version of the bill this Congress. Senator Cassidy is also a strong supporter of the Carper/Capito Senate resolution to establish National Obesity Care Week. He is also a member of the Senate HELP Committee.



Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)

Senator Capito, the daughter of former West Virginia Governor was elected to the United States Senate in 2014 after serving three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is currently the lead Republican sponsor of the Senate resolution to designate the week of October 30 - November 5, 2016 as National Obesity Care Week. She also is a cosponsor of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act — both in the Senate and when she was in the House. Senator Capito is a member of the Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee. As a member of the moderate Main Street Partnership, she sometimes sides with Democrats on labor, trade and health care issues.



Representative Ron Kind (D-WI)

Representative Kind, who was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1997, has been a long-time champion of obesity issues. Congressman Kind is the lead Democratic sponsor of both the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act and the House resolution to designate the week of October 30 - November 5, 2016 as National Obesity Care Week. He is a senior minority member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over key aspects of the Medicare program.



Representative Eric Paulsen (R-MN)

Congressman Paulsen has been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives since 2009 and currently is a member of the House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee. Mr. Paulsen is the lead Republican sponsor of the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act — taking over that leadership role after Dr. Bill Cassidy left the House and was elected to the United States Senate. Congressman Paulsen is also the lead Republican sponsor of the House resolution to designate October 30 - November 5, 2016 as National Obesity Care Week.



Dave Jones, California State Insurance Commissioner

Dave Jones is California's Insurance Commissioner. He was first elected Insurance Commissioner on November 2, 2010 and re-elected November 4, 2014. Jones leads the California Department of Insurance and regulates the California insurance market. Insurers collect \$259 billion a year in premiums in California, making it the nation's largest insurance market. Prior to being elected Insurance Commissioner, Jones served in the California State Assembly from 2004 through 2010, where he chaired the Assembly Health Committee, the Assembly Judiciary Committee and the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. He has been instrumental in ensuring bariatric surgery coverage in Covered California, the state health exchange.



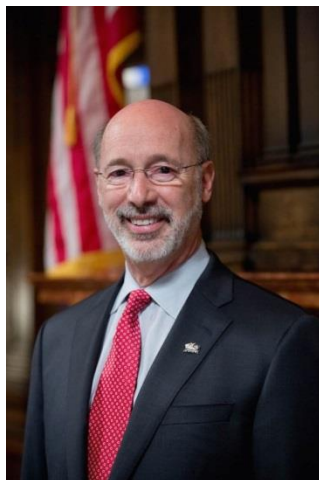
Florida State Representative Julio Gonzalez (R-FL)

Representative Gonzalez is an orthopedic surgeon who has been representing Florida's 74th District, which includes Englewood, North Port, and Venice in Sarasota County, since 2014. Dr. Gonzalez is a member of the House Health Quality Subcommittee and very much involved with the Governor's Diabetes Advisory Council. As an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in knee reconstructive surgery and shoulder surgery, Dr. Gonzalez knows how devastating obesity can be on an individual's musculoskeletal system. Representative Gonzalez is also married to Dr. Gina Arabitg, a gynecologist.



Texas State Senator Jose Menendez (D-TX)

Senator Menéndez was first elected State Representative for House District 124 in the year 2000. During his tenure, he was entrusted with an appointment to the powerful Appropriations Committee where he secured millions of dollars for Haven for Hope, Morgan's Wonderland and other crucial San Antonio initiatives. In his final session as State Representative, Jose was appointed Chairman of the House Committee on Defense and Veterans' Affairs where he passed one of the state's largest mental health programs for Veterans. We look to his assistance with further bariatric coverage in the Lone Star state.



Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf (D)

On January 20, 2015, Tom Wolf was sworn in as Pennsylvania's 47th governor. Since taking office, Tom has taken a number of steps to make Pennsylvania a better place. As Pennsylvania governor, Tom is focused on three simple goals: jobs that pay, schools that teach, and government that works. Governor Wolf has also taken a number of steps to improve and protect the lives of all Pennsylvanians. He signed two executive orders that expand protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender expression or identity for state employees and, for the first time, employees of contractors doing business with the commonwealth. He also expanded Medicaid in Pennsylvania in order to simplify a previously complicated process and ensure that hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians would have greater access to the health insurance they need. We look to his assistance with further bariatric coverage for Pennsylvania State employees.

The *ObesityPAC* also gave to both Democratic and Republican Nominees for US President.

VIII. *ObesityPAC Donors*



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President's Council donors are "Leaders of the PAC." By pledging \$2500-\$5000, they demonstrate their deep commitment to political advocacy in Washington. Thank you to our 2015-2016 President's Council members!

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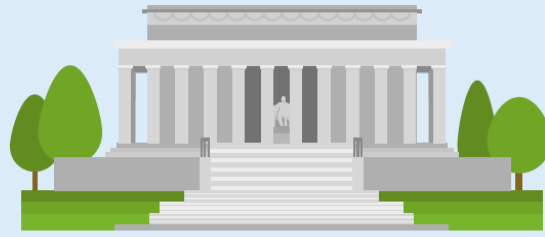
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OBESITY PAC

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