

# Obesity: Changing the Political Discourse

Presented by:

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Obesity Action Coalition (OAC)



# Disclosures

I am an employee of the Obesity Action Coalition. I have no personal industry relationships, but OAC does accept funding from a wide variety of industry partners. No part of my talk today is product-related.

# Outline

- Bias in Politics
- Challenging Discriminating Laws
- Advocating for New Laws Banning Discrimination
- Using the Legal System to Challenge Laws and Regulations
- Humanizing Obesity through Patient Advocacy
- Driving Public Awareness

# Bias in Politics

The OAC frequently challenges weight bias in the political arena, politicians often find themselves the target of weight bias.

NEWS



## Advocates want critics to stop fat-shaming Trump

By Lauren Steussy

February 21, 2019 | 10:21am | Updated



## How to Turn Chris Christie's Weight into an 'Issue'



Reuters

## American Way: Chris Christie, the fat guy who won't get the girl in 2012

By Toby Harnden **US politics** Last updated: October 1st, 2011

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Analysis: Rick Perry's 'Oops' moment goes to the heart of why his campaign is failing

November 10th, 2011 18:06

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'Oops'. The worst moment in US debate history? Rick Perry can't remember the third



Chris Christie speaks during the Perspectives on Leadership Forum (Photo: AP)

# Challenging Discriminating Laws

In 2008, Mississippi HB282 discriminated against people with obesity by restricting their right to dine in restaurants. OAC acted quickly and the legislation was withdrawn.

February 1, 2008

## **Obesity Action Coalition Calls on the State of Mississippi House of Representatives to Withdraw House Bill 282 Discriminating against those Affected by Obesity**



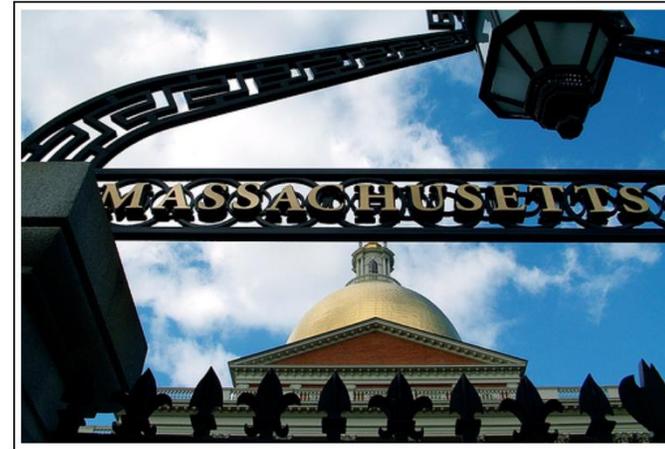
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# Advocating for News Laws Banning Discrimination

OAC representatives have been vocal in support of new laws to ban discrimination against people with obesity.

In 2013, OAC joined together with other advocacy groups and testified about the burden of bias and discrimination that people with obesity face in the state of Massachusetts.

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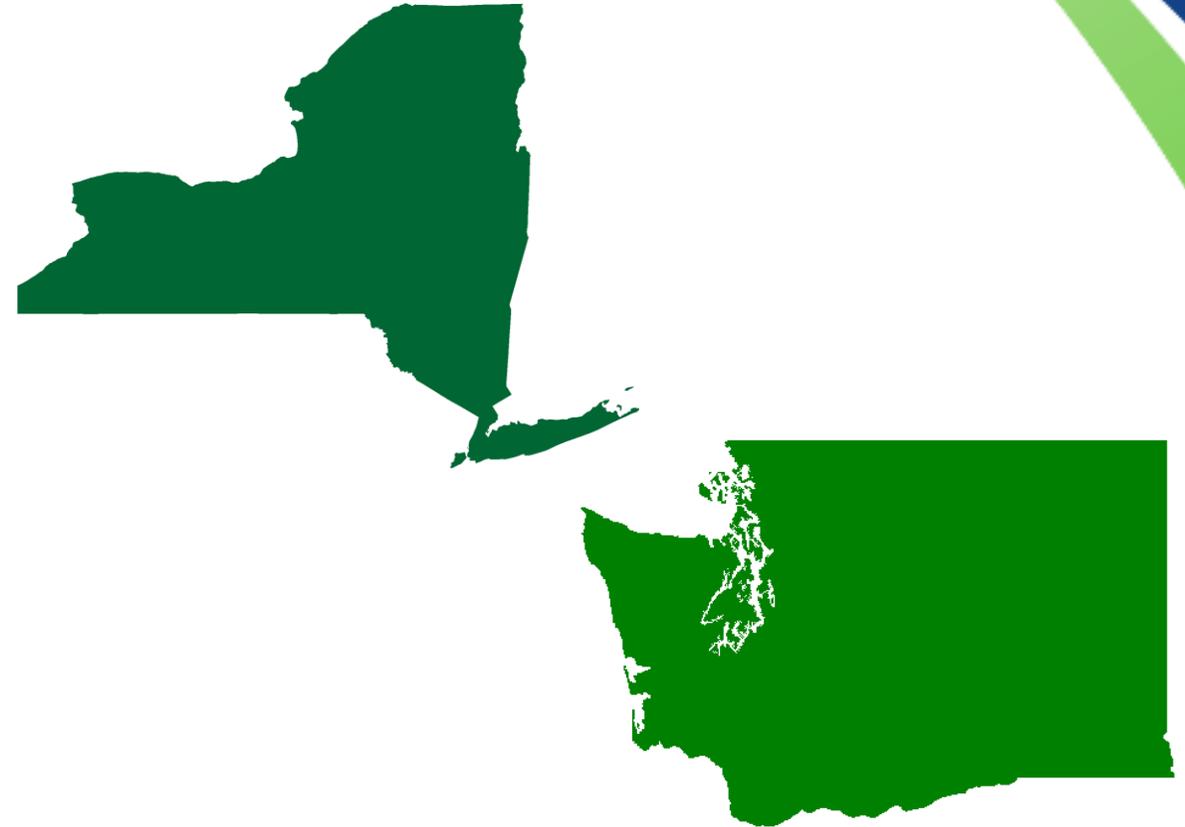
## Massachusetts Considers Weight Discrimination Law

The Massachusetts legislature is considering a weight discrimination law to follow the lead of Michigan in protecting people from employment discrimination based on weight and height. At a hearing Tuesday, representatives of the Obesity Society, the Obesity Action Coalition, the Binge Eating Disorders Association,

# Using the Legal System to Challenge Laws and Regulations

OAC has recently engaged the legal system to challenge existing laws and regulations in New York and Washington state.

While our efforts are still pending in the legal system, we have gained the attention of media outlets, especially within the legal community.



# Humanizing Obesity through Patient Advocacy

OAC maintains a strong presence on Capitol Hill to advocate for increased access to care, ending weight bias and more! Since its inception, the OAC has conducted thousands of in-person legislative visits and mobilized more than 60,000 members nationwide to take ACTION!



**TROA STARTS**  
on Capitol Hill, but it  
**FINISHES** with **YOU.**

URGE SUPPORT FOR THE  
**TREAT AND REDUCE OBESITY ACT!**

WRITE CALL SHARE



**“No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.”**  
- Robin Williams

VISIT: **OBESITYACTION.ORG/TROA**



# Driving Public Awareness

Through its public awareness campaigns and joint efforts with partners on initiatives, such as World Obesity Day, the OAC has engaged billions of individuals worldwide to help change the discourse of the disease of obesity, its treatments and most importantly, the people affected by it.



# Thank You!

Please learn more about the OAC and considering joining our efforts today!

