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## **THOUSANDS GATHER FOR THE *WALK FROM OBESITY - WALK ON THE CAPITOL* IN WASHINGTON, DC, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF OBESITY**

**Washington, DC** – In what was the largest gathering in the history of those affected by obesity, thousands gathered on the National Mall in Washington, DC, yesterday evening to raise awareness of the disease of obesity.

Attendees traveled from all over the world to join in the *Walk on the Capitol*. Ranging from the United States to Australia, everyone in attendance represented one voice, one cause - the disease of obesity. In addition, Caitlin VanZandt, television star of *Guiding Light* and *The Sopranos*, was featured as the guest speaker for the event. Caitlin discussed her own battle with obesity and expressed a deep and true concern for those affected by the disease.

"The *Walk on the Capitol* was truly a historic event for those affected by obesity. Looking out at the National Mall and seeing the thousands in attendance symbolically walking for their health, patient rights and most importantly, obesity awareness, was amazing," said Joseph Nadglowski, Jr., Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) President and CEO and Executive Director of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) Foundation.

In addition to the Walk, earlier in the week, the OAC was fortunate to take part in a very important legislative briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The briefing had presenters who discussed the impact of obesity and its treatments, and also included two patients who shared their personal struggles with obesity. More than 50 legislative aides, leaving standing-room only, were present at the briefing. Throughout the week, the OAC has also been visiting legislators to bring their attention to the need for expanded efforts in prevention and treatment programs.

For more information on the *Walk on the Capitol* or to view photos from the event, please visit [www.walkonthecapitol.com](http://www.walkonthecapitol.com).

*The Walk on the Capitol is a National awareness event designed to draw attention to the need for expanded efforts in both prevention and treatment. The Walk is hosted by the Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) and ASMBS Foundation and supported by various partnering non profit organizations.*

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