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## **MORE THAN 70 U.S. CITIES PREPARE FOR 2008 *WALK FROM OBESITY***

**Gainesville, Fla.** – This September and October more than 70 cities throughout the United States will host an annual *Walk from Obesity*. From coast to coast, those affected by the disease of obesity, loved ones, friends, colleagues, healthcare professionals and many others will join forces and walk in recognition of the obesity epidemic.

“The *Walk from Obesity* is the single most important obesity awareness event focusing on those affected that takes place each year. The Walk symbolizes the many nationwide efforts in the fight against obesity, morbid obesity and childhood obesity. We encourage all those battling obesity and anyone else who would like to participate to locate their Walk city and sign-up today,” said Joseph Nadglowski, Jr., Obesity Action Coalition (OAC) President and CEO and ASMBS Foundation Executive Director.

In 2007, *Walk from Obesity* generated more than 16,000 participants nationwide and raised more than \$750,000 for obesity research. To date, the Walk has raised more than \$2.5 million to support its efforts.

In addition, the *Walk from Obesity* received national attention this past June during the *Walk from Obesity -Walk on the Capitol*. Held in Washington, DC, the *Walk on the Capitol* hosted thousands of proud participants on the National Mall walking for increased obesity awareness, prevention, access to care and much more. This year’s annual Walks will echo that strong message sent in Washington and raise national awareness of this disease.

Walk event locations are now available online at [www.walkfromobesity.com](http://www.walkfromobesity.com). Those interested can visit the Walk Web site and learn more about the event, obesity, how to get involved, training programs and much more.

*The Walk from Obesity was established to raise awareness of the obesity epidemic and to support initiatives focusing on prevention, education, research, treatment and advocacy. Proceeds from the Walk benefit the independent educational and research initiatives of the ASMBS Foundation and the Obesity Action Coalition. Walkers raise money by asking friends, family and co-workers to sponsor them. In addition to walker income, funds are raised through sponsorship, matching gifts, corporate contributions and other fundraising activities.*

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