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PATIENT ORGANIZATIONS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD UNITE FOR WORLD OBESITY DAY BY GOING BEYOND THE STATISTICS AND SENDING THE POWERFUL MESSAGE – “WE ARE PEOPLE LIVING WITH OBESITY”

Tampa, FL. – The Global Obesity Patient Alliance (GOPA) and its member organizations are proud to stand together today, in honor of World Obesity Day, as a united voice representing individuals with a lived experience with obesity from all across the globe. Too often, obesity is looked at solely based on statistics and neglects the fact that real human lives are dealing with obesity, its related conditions, weight bias and more, on a daily basis. There has never been a more critical time to come together to ensure that people with obesity are seen as more than a statistic, but seen as mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends, co-workers, students, healthcare workers... real human lives. Through GOPA’s powerful message - “We are people living with obesity” - It’s Time that we look through a different lens and acknowledge that EveryBODY with obesity deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

As a united voice, GOPA and its member organizations recognize that to go beyond the statistics and make an impact, we must work together. GOPA’s existence is proof that there is power behind diverse voices coming together, which is why we are challenging individuals living with obesity to make a difference and pledge to get connected to a patient organization in their region. To get connected to an organization in your region, or for information on starting an organization in your home country, please visit www.GOPA.org/connect.

“Changing the narrative takes all of us, and it takes recognition that real human lives are on the line. We must put an end to the stigma and shame and blame that remains pervasive across all parts of the globe, and come together as a united voice to change the world for people living with obesity,” said Kristy Kuna, acting GOPA Secretariat.

The Alliance stands today as the only global representation of patients with obesity and remains committed to working together collaboratively and passionately to increase advocacy and amplify the voices of individuals with obesity worldwide. Current members of the Alliance include: Adipositasforeningen (Denmark); Adipositaschirurgie Selbsthilfe Deutschland e. V. (Germany); European Coalition for People Living with Obesity – ECPO (Europe); Obesity Action Coalition – OAC (United States), Obesity Canada (Canada), and Obesity UK (United Kingdom). In addition, GOPA also has Associate Members comprised of individuals who represent emerging obesity patient organizations from all parts of the world.

To learn more about GOPA, please visit www.GOPA.org.

The Global Obesity Patient Alliance (GOPA) - a unified voice of obesity patient organizations from around the world - is dedicated to igniting and inspiring global change for people living with obesity. GOPA and its member organizations work collaboratively and passionately to increase advocacy to amplify the voices of individuals with obesity across the globe.

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