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For Immediate Release

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**Campaign Endorses Legislation Introduced by Representative Earl Blumenauer to
Increase Access to Safe Routes to School Funding**

Legislation Would Expand Opportunities for Physically Active Lifestyles to High School Students

Washington, DC (November 5, 2009) – Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) introduced [legislation](#) yesterday expanding the highly successful Federal Safe Routes to School Program to high schools. The Campaign to End Obesity fully supports extending this proven program, which removes barriers for children to commute without cars. Safe Routes to School provides state grants to encourage healthy commuting through safer street crossings and more walking and bike paths.

“One factor in America's obesity epidemic is that young people aren't getting enough physical activity. We can change that by investing in improvements that make it easier and safer for students to walk or bike to school,” said Campaign spokesperson Penny Lee. “Over 4,566 local Safe Routes to School programs have helped elementary and middle-school students move more. Representative Blumenauer's bill will make it possible for high school students to continue those healthy commuting habits. This program is a simple and effective way for young people to get active and start moving.”

With 1 in 5 children suffering from obesity, Congress needs to use every opportunity available to work to reverse the growing rates of overweight and obesity in America. Specifically, the Campaign calls upon Congress to support increased physical activity through Safe Routes to School, to improve the nutritional value of school lunches in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act, to ensure that all foods sold on school campuses meet the most up-to-date IOM guidelines on nutrition, to enact measures to prevent and treat obesity by screening for BMI (body mass index) and body composition in children and adults, along with other initiatives.

About the Campaign to End Obesity

The Campaign to End Obesity is dedicated to reversing America's costliest medical condition. Right now, 1 in 3 adults and 1 in 5 children struggle with obesity. This year, taxpayers, governments and businesses will spend as much as \$147 billion on health costs linked to obesity. Ending this epidemic requires change – in individuals, communities and institutions. The Campaign convenes leaders from industry, academia, public health and associations to advocate with one voice for federal policies to reverse the obesity epidemic and promote healthy weight in children and adults.

For more information about the Campaign's work, visit www.obesitycampaign.org or call 202-466-8100.

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