

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999

SCR 8

4
5 By: Senator B. Walker
6 By: Representative T. Steele
7

8 9 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 "TO PLACE EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE PREVENTION
11 AND TREATMENT OF OBESITY AS A NATIONAL PRIORITY, AND
12 TO RECOMMEND OBESITY TREATMENT COVERAGE IN STATE
13 MEDICAID PROGRAMS, AND TO SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING
14 AND AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY-BASED
15 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMS, AND TO
16 DIRECT A STUDY OF THE EFFECT OF OBESITY IN BOTH ADULTS
17 AND CHILDREN ON COSTLY HEALTH COMPLICATIONS SUCH AS
18 DIABETES, HYPERTENSION, HEART DISEASE, AND STROKE, AND
19 HEALTH COMPLICATIONS IN CHILDREN, AND TO MAKE
20 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT IN AWARENESS OF THE
21 PROBLEM OF OBESITY AND SUGGESTED TREATMENT MODALITIES,
22 AND TO REPORT THE FINDINGS OF SUCH STUDY AND
23 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE LEGISLATURE PRIOR TO THE
24 CONVENING OF THE 2001 REGULAR SESSION."

25 26 **Subtitle**

27 "CONCERNING THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF
28 OBESITY."
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31 WHEREAS, 1996 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Data from the federal
32 Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicates the percent of state
33 populations who are overweight to range from 22.32% to 34.52%; and
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35 WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity in the adult population has grown a
36 shocking thirty-four percent (34%) during the past ten (10) years; and

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2 WHEREAS, a causal relationship exists between obesity and a number of
3 serious disorders, including hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular
4 disease, diabetes (Type II), gall bladder disease, respiratory dysfunction,
5 gout, and osteoarthritis; and

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7 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney
8 Diseases provided information which indicates that nearly eighty percent (80%)
9 of patients with diabetes mellitus are obese and the incidence of symptomatic
10 gallstones soars as a person's body mass index increases beyond a certain
11 level; and

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13 WHEREAS, the information also reveals that nearly seventy percent (70%)
14 of diagnosed cases of cardiovascular disease are related to obesity, and
15 obesity more than doubles a person's chances of developing high blood
16 pressure, and almost half of breast cancer cases are diagnosed among obese
17 women, and forty-two percent (42%) of colon cancer cases are among obese
18 individuals; and

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20 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a preventable cause of
21 death and results in some three hundred thousand (300,000) deaths annually;
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, a 1997 study by Kaiser Permanente indicated that the total
25 direct cost of obesity related diseases in the United States in 1990 was
26 \$45.8 billion dollars; and

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28 WHEREAS, the Kaiser study concluded that there is a significant
29 potential for a reduction in health care expenditures through obesity
30 prevention efforts; and

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32 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for state health care groups and
33 medical societies to place obesity at the top of their state's health care
34 agenda; and

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36 WHEREAS, many physicians do not treat obesity because they mistakenly

1 believe there is no treatment for it; and

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3 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health, the American Society for
4 Bariatric Surgery, and the American Obesity Association recommend that
5 patients who are morbidly obese receive responsible affordable medical
6 treatment for their obesity; and

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8 WHEREAS, the diagnosis of morbid obesity should be a clinical decision
9 made by a physician based on proper medical protocols; and

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11 WHEREAS, the recent breakthroughs in drug therapy can treat obesity
12 successfully and the New England Journal of Medicine recently emphasized the
13 legitimate use of pharmacotherapy as a component of treatment of medically
14 significant obesity; and

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16 WHEREAS, there is also great concern regarding what effect obesity in
17 children may have on overall health in children, health care costs for
18 children, and treatment modalities to address the problems of obesity in
19 children; and

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21 WHEREAS, a study by the Arkansas Department of Health is critical to
22 raise the awareness of the public and private sectors that obesity is a
23 disease of epidemic proportions that is treatable and that proper treatment
24 will reduce health care costs and improve the quality of life for a large
25 number of our citizens.

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27 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND GENERAL
28 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING
29 THEREIN:

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31 THAT the Arkansas General Assembly recommends that educating the public
32 about the prevention and treatment of obesity should be a national priority,
33 and that federal and state Medicaid programs must ensure the availability of
34 obesity-related treatment for people of all ages with low incomes, and that
35 increased funding and availability of school and community-based physical
36 activity and nutrition programs should occur.

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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Arkansas General Assembly requests the
3 Arkansas Department of Health to study the effect of obesity in both adults
4 and children on costly health complications such as diabetes, hypertension,
5 heart disease, and stroke, and health complications in children, and make
6 recommendations for improvement in awareness of the problem of obesity and
7 suggested treatment modality, and to report the findings of such study and
8 such recommendations to the Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee of both
9 the Senate and the House.