

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 120

BY REPRESENTATIVE BAGLEY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize Monday, June 7, 2021, as Louisiana Childhood Obesity Awareness Day at the state capitol and to commend medical professionals for their efforts to prevent and combat childhood obesity in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines obesity as a body mass index, or BMI, at or above the 95th percentile for children and teens of the same age and sex; and

WHEREAS, more than twenty percent of Louisiana children between ten and seventeen years old suffer with obesity, thus making Louisiana the sixth highest ranking state in the country in terms of childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, children who are obese are seventy percent more likely to be obese as adults; and

WHEREAS, children with obesity are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, asthma, and fatty liver disease and are more prone to experience anxiety, depression, bullying, low self-esteem, and weight stigma during childhood, all of which extracts high physical and monetary tolls among Louisianians and Americans; and

WHEREAS, genetics, poor nutrition, food insecurity, community design and safety, adverse childhood events, poor sleep, and low levels of physical activity are major contributors to childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana, pediatricians and research scientists recognize the health threats inherent in obesity and work collaboratively to improve the health and future of children in the state; and

WHEREAS, these collaborations have given participants a greater understanding of the complexities of obesity, and have enabled them to identify the connection between obesity and diabetes and other chronic diseases that afflict a disproportionate share of children in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, an improved understanding of obesity and its negative impact on a growing number of Louisiana's children is informing statewide outreach initiatives to combat Louisiana's childhood obesity epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes that Louisiana's children are the state's most valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, similarly, the Legislature of Louisiana recognizes the dedicated physicians and research scientists who are working to curtail and eliminate childhood obesity in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize Monday, June 7, 2021, as Louisiana Childhood Obesity Awareness Day at the state capitol, and hereby commends the cadre of medical professionals who provide healthcare, conduct research, and implement important outreach programs across Louisiana to prevent and reduce obesity among children in the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and to the executive director of the Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE