

Regular Session, 2010

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR BROOME

SENATE. Requests members of the Senate to host an Obesity Awareness Walk within their respective districts and designates April 13, 2010, as "Obesity Awareness Day."

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request each member of the Senate to host an Obesity Awareness Walk within
3 the member's district and to designate April 13, 2010, as "Obesity Awareness Day."

4 Whereas, obesity costs the nation seventy-five billion dollars in direct costs each
5 year, while the total cost of obesity, including indirect costs, as high as one hundred thirty-
6 nine billion dollars per year; and

7 Whereas, Louisiana is ranked eighth highest in the country in obesity and ranked as
8 one of the top ten states in total medical expenditures related to obesity; and

9 Whereas, 64% of Louisiana adults are obese or overweight; and obese adults have
10 36% higher average annual medical expenditures than adults at normal weight; and

11 Whereas, 35.9% of Louisiana children ages 10-17 are considered overweight or
12 obese; and the cost of child obesity-associated illness increased from thirty-five million to
13 one hundred twenty-seven million dollars in the past two decades; and

14 Whereas, obesity and obesity-related diseases such as diabetes and hypertension
15 continue to remain the highest in southern states; and

16 Whereas, Louisiana ranks sixth highest in the country for Type 2 Diabetes while
17 more than 80% of people with Type 2 Diabetes are overweight; and

18 Whereas, obesity and overweight are associated with increased risk of costly chronic

1 co-morbid conditions; including diabetes, cancer, heart disease, stroke, hypertension, high
2 cholesterol, gall bladder problems, sleep apnea, osteoarthritis, and female infertility; and

3 Whereas, childhood obesity continues to be a problem in Louisiana and
4 Representative Patrick Williams works to bring awareness to these problems by having an
5 annual "Walk the Walk" to encourage people to make healthier choices for Louisiana's
6 children; and

7 Whereas, Obesity Awareness Day challenges each member of the Louisiana Senate
8 to host an Obesity Awareness Walk in the member's district to build awareness of the health
9 and cost impact of obesity within their district; and

10 Whereas, an Obesity Awareness Day will allow participants to provide education on
11 the public health risks of obesity, and to recognize that obesity is a statewide public health
12 problem which may be impacted by public health initiatives such as health and physical
13 education as well as recognize evidence-based treatment options for obesity including
14 preventative care, diet and exercise, and surgery including long-term follow-up care; and

15 Whereas, the Louisiana Business Group on Health is interested in educating
16 employers of Louisiana on obesity and its impact on businesses in Louisiana; and

17 Whereas, total cost to private employers is estimated at forty-five billion dollars per
18 year as a result of medical expenses and excessive absenteeism; and

19 Whereas, the total lost days on productivity and absentee days associated annually
20 with obesity include:

- 21 1. Thirty-nine million lost work days
- 22 2. Two hundred thirty-nine million restricted-activity days
- 23 3. Sixty-three million physician visits
- 24 4. Eighty-nine million bed-days; and

25 Whereas, the Louisiana Business Group on Health aims to champion employer-
26 sponsored health and wellness initiatives by bringing together employers, health plans,
27 providers, and public policy makers; and

28 Whereas, Johnson & Johnson, Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc., Louisiana Business Group
29 on Health, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Pennington Bio-Medical
30 Research, Obesity Action Coalition, Louisiana Obesity Council, Louisiana Dietetic

1 Association, Animas, and LifeScan of Louisiana have partnered to have a display in the
2 rotunda to display and discuss the impact of obesity in Louisiana on April 13, 2010; and

3 Whereas, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus and Louisiana Legislative
4 Black Caucus have partnered to bring attention to the state on the impact of obesity in
5 Louisiana; and

6 Whereas, the Senate will have an opportunity to learn the economics of obesity and
7 solutions made available by participants to help fight the disease on April 13, 2010; and

8 Whereas, all members of the Louisiana Senate and interested parties are encouraged
9 to attend this event and recognize this important issue.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
11 does hereby urge and request each member of the Senate to host an Obesity Awareness Walk
12 within the member's district to recognize the importance of this issue.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate recognizes that obesity issues must
14 be addressed and hereby designates April 13, 2010, as "Obesity Awareness Day."

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry J. Guillot

DIGEST

Broome

SR No.

Requests each member of the Senate to host an Obesity Awareness Walk within the
member's district to recognize the importance of this issue.

Also recognizes that obesity issues must be addressed and designates April 13, 2010, as
"Obesity Awareness Day."