

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 22

BY SENATOR BROOME

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, obesity and overweight are associated with increased risk of costly chronic co-morbid conditions; including diabetes, cancer, heart disease, stroke, hypertension, high cholesterol, gall bladder problems, sleep apnea, osteoarthritis, and female infertility; and

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

Whereas, Obesity Awareness Day challenges each member of the Louisiana Senate

to host an Obesity Awareness Walk in the member's district to build awareness of the health and cost impact of obesity within their district; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Whereas, Johnson & Johnson, Ethicon Endo-Surgery Inc., Louisiana Business Group on Health, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Pennington Bio-Medical Research, Obesity Action Coalition, Louisiana Obesity Council, Louisiana Dietetic Association, Animas, and LifeScan of Louisiana have partnered to have a display in the rotunda to display and discuss the impact of obesity in Louisiana on April 13, 2010; and

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE