

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 511

Expressing support for designation of September as “National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month”.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

Ms. FUDGE (for herself, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. KIND, and Mr. REICHERT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

RESOLUTION

Expressing support for designation of September as
“National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month”.

Whereas childhood obesity has more than quadrupled in children and tripled in adolescents in the past 40 years;

Whereas 17 percent or 12,550,000 children and adolescents aged 0 to 17 years are obese;

Whereas childhood obesity is more prevalent among children from low-income families; for example, 14.5 percent of preschool children living below the poverty threshold are obese;

Whereas significant disparities exist among the obesity rates of children based on race; for example, on average 38.5 percent of Hispanic/Latino children and 35.2 percent of African-American children ages 6 to 11 are overweight or

obese, compared with 28.5 percent of Non-Hispanic White children, and American Indian/Alaska Native adolescents are 50 percent more likely than non-Hispanic Whites to be overweight;

Whereas the financial implications of childhood obesity pose a financial threat to our economy and healthcare system, carrying up to \$14,000,000,000 per year in direct healthcare cost, with people in the United States spending about 10 percent of their total medical costs on obesity-related illnesses;

Whereas obese children ages 10 to 13 have an 80-percent chance of being obese adults and are more likely than children of normal weight to become overweight or obese adults, and therefore more at risk for associated adult health problems, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, sleep apnea, stroke, several types of cancer, and osteoarthritis;

Whereas in part due to the childhood obesity epidemic, 1 in 3 children (and nearly 1 in 2 minority children) born in the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes at some point in their lifetime if current trends continue;

Whereas some consequences of childhood and adolescent obesity are psychosocial and can hinder academic and social functioning and persist into adulthood;

Whereas participating in physical activity is important for children and teens as it may have beneficial effects not only on body weight, but also on blood pressure and bone strength;

Whereas proper nutrition is important for children before birth and through their lifespan as nutrition has bene-

ficial effects for health and body weight, and is important in the prevention of various chronic diseases;

Whereas childhood obesity is preventable; yet for the first time in two centuries, the current generation of children in the United States may have shorter life expectancies than their parents;

Whereas public, community-based, and private sector organizations and individuals throughout the United States are working to decrease childhood obesity rates for people in the United States of all races through a range of efforts, including educational presentations, media campaigns, websites, policies, healthier food options, and greater opportunities for physical activity; and

Whereas September would be an appropriate month to designate as “National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month” to educate the public about the need for increased education and proactive steps to prevent childhood obesity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) supports the designation of “National
3 Childhood Obesity Awareness Month” to raise public
4 awareness and mobilize the country to address child-
5 hood obesity;

6 (2) recognizes the importance of preventing
7 childhood obesity and decreasing its prevalence in
8 the United States; and

9 (3) requests that the President encourage the
10 Federal Government, States, Tribes and Tribal orga-
11 nizations, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations,

1 businesses, other entities, and the people of the
2 United States to observe the month with appropriate
3 programs and activities with the goal of promoting
4 healthy eating and physical activity and increasing
5 awareness of childhood obesity among individuals of
6 all ages and walks of life.

