

By Senator Silver

38-1440A-99

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Senate Resolution No. ____

A resolution urging the increased education of the citizens of the state with regard to the awareness, prevention, and treatment of obesity as a major health concern.

WHEREAS, 1996 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Data from the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicates the percentage of state populations who are overweight ranges from 22 to 34 percent, and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity in the adult population has grown a shocking 34 percent during the past ten years, and

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

WHEREAS, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases has provided information that indicates that nearly 80 percent of patients with diabetes mellitus are obese and that the incidence of symptomatic gallstones soars as a person's body-mass index increases beyond a certain level, and

WHEREAS, the information also reveals that nearly 70 percent of diagnosed cases of cardiovascular disease are related to obesity, that obesity more than doubles a person's chances of developing high blood pressure, that almost half of breast cancer cases are diagnosed among obese women, and that 42 percent of colon cancer cases are among obese individuals, and

1 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a
2 preventable cause of death and results in some three hundred
3 thousand deaths annually, and
4 WHEREAS, a 1997 study by Kaiser Permanente indicates
5 that the total direct cost of obesity-related diseases in the
6 United States in 1990 was \$45.8 billion, and
7 WHEREAS, the study concluded that there is a
8 significant potential for a reduction in healthcare
9 expenditures through obesity-prevention efforts, and
10 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for state healthcare
11 groups and medical societies to place obesity at the top of
12 their state's healthcare agenda, and
13 WHEREAS, many physicians do not treat obesity because
14 they mistakenly believe there is no treatment for it, and
15 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health, the
16 American Society for Bariatric Surgery, and the American
17 Obesity Association recommend that patients who are morbidly
18 obese receive responsible, affordable medical treatment for
19 their obesity, and
20 WHEREAS, recent breakthroughs in drug therapy can treat
21 obesity successfully, and
22 WHEREAS, the New England Journal of Medicine recently
23 emphasized the legitimate use of pharmacotherapy as a
24 component of treatment of medically significant obesity, and
25 WHEREAS, there is also great concern regarding what
26 effect obesity in children may have on overall health in
27 children and regarding healthcare costs for children and the
28 need for treatment modalities to address the problem of
29 obesity in children, and
30 WHEREAS, it is of critical importance to raise the
31 awareness of the public and private sectors to the fact that

1 obesity is a disease of epidemic proportions which is
2 treatable, and that proper treatment will reduce healthcare
3 costs and improve the quality of life for a large number of
4 our citizens, NOW, THEREFORE,

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6 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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8 That the State of Florida shall endeavor to increase
9 public awareness among the citizens of the State of Florida
10 with regard to the awareness, prevention, and treatment of
11 obesity as a major health concern.

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