

By Senator Silver

38-2225-99

1 Senate Resolution No. \_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, the information also reveals that nearly 70  
26 percent of diagnosed cases of cardiovascular disease are  
27 related to obesity, that obesity more than doubles a person's  
28 chances of developing high blood pressure, that almost half of  
29 breast cancer cases are diagnosed among obese women, and that  
30 42 percent of colon cancer cases are among obese individuals,  
31 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 indicates that the total direct  
5 cost of obesity-related diseases in the United States in 1990  
6 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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