

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13—SENATORS WIENER,
CEGAVSKE, TITUS, RAWSON, CARE, MATHEWS, RAGGIO
AND WASHINGTON

MARCH 4, 2003

Referred to Committee on Legislative Affairs and Operations

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Committee on Health Care to
conduct interim study concerning medical and
societal costs and impacts of obesity in Nevada.
(BDR R-25)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the
Legislative Committee on Health Care to conduct an
interim study concerning the medical and societal costs
and impacts of obesity in Nevada.

- 1 WHEREAS, Obesity manifests itself as one of our nation’s most
2 significant public health concerns as proven by recent statistics from
3 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which reveal that in
4 the United States, approximately 38.8 million adults, 19.8 percent of
5 adults in the United States, are classified as obese, and an estimated
6 9 million children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 19
7 years, 15 percent of that age group, are categorized as overweight;
8 and
9 WHEREAS, These statistics represent such an extremely rapid
10 rise of obesity in our society over the last decade that members of
11 the medical profession attach the word “epidemic” to the problem, a
12 word usually reserved for massive outbreaks of infectious disease;
13 and
14 WHEREAS, Obesity is a chronic disease, and studies show that
15 about one half of children who are overweight by the time they are 6
16 or 7 years of age remain overweight as adults and 75 percent of
17 adolescents who are overweight will remain overweight as adults;
18 and
19 WHEREAS, Research has established that there is a direct causal
20 relationship between obesity and heart disease, hypertension, stroke,



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1 elevated cholesterol, type 2 diabetes, gallbladder disease, arthritis,
2 breathing problems, gout, and forms of cancer such as uterine,
3 cervical, ovarian, breast, gallbladder, colorectal and prostate; and

4 WHEREAS, Statistics for the year 2000 from the Centers for
5 Disease Control and Prevention disclose that 4,089 deaths in
6 Nevada were the result of heart disease and that 3,763 deaths were
7 caused by cancer, and obesity almost assuredly played a role in
8 many of these deaths; and

9 WHEREAS, Not only does obesity affect physical health, but
10 obese persons may also experience low self-esteem, social
11 stigmatism, discrimination, poor body image and increased risk of
12 emotional problems, and disorders such as chronic depression,
13 anxiety and obsessive compulsive disorder have commonly been
14 linked to obesity; and

15 WHEREAS, According to *The Surgeon General's Call to Action*
16 *to Prevent and Decrease Overweight and Obesity*, issued in 2001,
17 an estimated 300,000 people die each year from illnesses directly
18 caused or worsened by being overweight, a fact that prompted
19 former Surgeon General David Satcher to warn that obesity may
20 soon overtake tobacco as the leading cause of preventable death in
21 America; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2000, the total costs of this epidemic in the United
23 States rose to an estimated \$117 billion per year, consisting of \$61
24 billion in direct costs for preventive, diagnostic and treatment
25 services for medical care and \$56 billion in losses relating to
26 productivity in the workforce and the value of future earnings lost
27 by premature death; and

28 WHEREAS, There is a compelling need for an aggressive
29 program of prevention and treatment because the direct and indirect
30 costs resulting from obesity are expected to increase rapidly as the
31 problem worsens and because the prevention and amelioration of
32 obesity could have a significantly positive impact on health care
33 costs in this state; and

34 WHEREAS, Conquering the problem of obesity must begin with
35 the process of accumulating sound scientific data as a foundation for
36 fostering awareness of the role that genetics, behavior and
37 environment play in obesity and finding solutions to improve the
38 quality of life; now, therefore, be it

39 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
40 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Committee on
41 Health Care is hereby directed to conduct a study of the medical and
42 societal costs and impacts of obesity on the State of Nevada; and be
43 it further

44 RESOLVED, That a subcommittee must be appointed for the
45 study consisting of one Legislator appointed by the Majority Leader



1 of the Senate, one Legislator appointed by the Minority Leader of
2 the Senate, one Legislator appointed by the Speaker of the
3 Assembly and one Legislator appointed by the Minority Leader of
4 the Assembly, all of whom must have served on the Senate Standing
5 Committee on Human Resources and Facilities or the Assembly
6 Standing Committee on Health and Human Services during the
7 2003 Legislative Session; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That one person assigned by the Health Division of
9 the Department of Human Resources and one person assigned by
10 the Department of Education shall also serve as voting members of
11 the subcommittee; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall appoint a
13 chairman of the subcommittee from among the members of the
14 subcommittee; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

16 1. An analysis of the fiscal impact of obesity on health care
17 costs and productivity in Nevada and a determination of possible
18 savings in health care costs resulting from the prevention and proper
19 treatment of obesity;

20 2. The identification of programs and practices that have been
21 established in Nevada and other states which are cost-effective and
22 could be implemented throughout Nevada;

23 3. Recommendations for programs to increase public
24 awareness regarding the causes, prevention, risks and treatment of
25 obesity;

26 4. An examination of the particular effects of the 24-hour
27 lifestyle and transient nature of some of the population of this state
28 on obesity;

29 5. Recommendations for programs and practices that
30 encourage healthy and balanced fitness and nutritional choices; and

31 6. Any other proposals for legislation relating to health care for
32 obesity that the committee may receive or develop; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That any recommended legislation proposed by the
34 subcommittee must be approved by a majority of the members of
35 the Senate and a majority of the members of the Assembly
36 appointed to the subcommittee; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Health Care
38 shall submit a report of the results of the study and any
39 recommendations for legislation to the 73rd Session of the Nevada
40 Legislature.

