

FILED FEB 27 '01

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

2 BY TINSMAN

3 A Concurrent Resolution requesting the Director of
4 Public Health to review the effects of obesity,
5 report on current state and local programs to enhance
6 public awareness of obesity and its treatment, and
7 make recommendations for improvements of the programs.

8 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control
9 and Prevention report that more than 50 percent of the
10 nation's adult population is overweight and at least
11 25 percent is obese; and

12 WHEREAS, more than 56 percent of Iowa adults are
13 overweight, according to the federal Centers for
14 Disease Control and Prevention; and

15 WHEREAS, great concern exists regarding the effect
16 obesity in children may have on the overall health of
17 children, on health care costs for children, and in
18 the need for treatment to address the problem of
19 obesity in children; and

20 WHEREAS, a causal relationship has been identified
21 between obesity and many serious disorders, including
22 hypertension, hyperlipidemia, vascular disease, type 2
23 diabetes, gallbladder disease, respiratory
24 dysfunction, gout, and osteoarthritis; and

25 WHEREAS, nearly 70 percent of diagnosed cases of
26 cardiovascular diseases are related to obesity, and
27 obesity more than doubles a person's chances of
28 developing high blood pressure, almost half of breast
29 cancer cases are diagnosed among obese women, and 42
30 percent of colon cancer cases occur among obese

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1 individuals; and

2 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a
3 preventable cause of death and results in some 300,000
4 deaths annually on a national basis; and

5 WHEREAS, insurance industry studies indicate that
6 the total direct costs of obesity-related diseases in
7 the United States is as much as \$51.6 billion or 5.7
8 percent of the total national health expenditures; and

9 WHEREAS, significant potential exists for a
10 reduction in health care expenditures through obesity
11 prevention efforts; and

12 WHEREAS, an urgent need exists for state health
13 care agencies and medical professionals to place
14 obesity at or near the top of Iowa's health care
15 agenda; and

16 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Health, the
17 American Society for Bariatric Surgery, and the
18 American Obesity Association recommend that patients
19 who are morbidly obese receive responsible, affordable
20 medical treatment for their obesity; and

21 WHEREAS, recent breakthroughs in drug therapy can
22 treat obesity successfully; and

23 WHEREAS, a review by the Director of Public Health
24 is critical to raise the awareness among the public
25 and private sectors that obesity is a disease of
26 epidemic proportions, that it is treatable, and that
27 proper treatment will reduce health care costs and
28 improve the quality of life for a large number of
29 Iowa's citizens; NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF

1 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Director of
2 Public Health is requested to review the effect of
3 obesity in both adults and children on costly health
4 conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, high
5 cholesterol, heart disease and stroke, and health
6 complications in children, and to report on current
7 programs of the state designed to improve awareness of
8 the problem of obesity and its treatment and to make
9 recommendations to the General Assembly for additions
10 and improvements to the state programs by December 3,
11 2001, prior to the convening of the 2002 Session of
12 the General Assembly; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage of this
14 resolution by the Senate and the House of
15 Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate shall
16 send an official copy of this resolution to the
17 Director of Public Health.

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