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RULES & ADMINISTRATION

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1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 15
 2 BY JOHNSON, REDWINE, JENSEN, MADDOX, BOLKCOM,
 3 HORN, and HARPER
 4 A Concurrent Resolution declaring the month of May 2001
 5 as Obesity Awareness Month.
 6 WHEREAS, obesity is caused by multiple factors,
 7 including genetic predisposition, environmental, and
 8 lifestyle factors; and
 9 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a
 10 preventable cause of death and results in some 300,000
 11 deaths annually; and
 12 WHEREAS, it is estimated that 35 percent of the
 13 adult population of the United States is obese, and
 14 the prevalence of obesity has grown a shocking 34
 15 percent in the last 10 years; and
 16 WHEREAS, great concern has also been expressed
 17 regarding the effect that obesity in children may have
 18 on their overall health, health care costs, and
 19 treatment; and
 20 WHEREAS, a causal relationship exists between
 21 obesity and a number of serious disorders, including
 22 hypertension, dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease,
 23 type 2 diabetes, gallbladder disease, respiratory
 24 dysfunction, gout, and osteoarthritis; and
 25 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Diabetes and
 26 Digestive and Kidney Diseases provides information
 27 that indicates that nearly 80 percent of patients with
 28 type 2 diabetes are obese, and the incidence of
 29 symptomatic gallstones soars as a person's body mass
 30 index increases beyond a certain level; and

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1 WHEREAS, the information also reveals that nearly
2 70 percent of diagnosed cases of cardiovascular
3 disease are related to obesity, obesity more than
4 doubles a person's chances of developing high blood
5 pressure, almost one-half of breast cancer cases are
6 diagnosed among obese women, and 42 percent of colon
7 cancer cases occur among obese individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, the Interdisciplinary Council on Lifestyle
9 and Obesity Management indicates that health lifestyle
10 modifications should include increased physical
11 activity, with an emphasis on moderate forms of
12 exertion; and

13 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for state health
14 care groups and medical societies to place obesity at
15 the top of Iowa's health care agenda; and

16 WHEREAS, the National Institutes 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, the diagnosis of morbid obesity should be
22 a clinical decision made by a physician based on
23 proper medical protocols; and

24 WHEREAS, the recent breakthroughs in drug therapy
25 can treat obesity successfully, and the New England
26 Journal of Medicine recently emphasized the legitimate
27 use of pharmacotherapy as a component of treatment of
28 medically significant obesity; and

29 WHEREAS, the breakthroughs in obesity treatment are
30 not widely known and efforts must be made to inform

1 the general public and health care professionals that
2 pharmacotherapy can be used as an effective and cost-
3 effective treatment for obesity; and

4 WHEREAS, it is critical to raise the awareness of
5 the public and private sectors that obesity is a
6 problem of epidemic proportions that is treatable, and
7 that proper treatment will reduce health care costs
8 and improve the quality of life for a large number of
9 our citizens; NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the General Assembly
12 acknowledges obesity as a growing epidemic and
13 encourages improvement in awareness and treatment of
14 the problems of obesity; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the medical community
16 and the Iowa Department of Public Health commit to
17 combating obesity through a myriad of tools deemed
18 appropriate for the individual, including, but not
19 limited to, nutrition education, pharmacotherapy, and
20 exercise; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
22 designates the month of May 2001 as Obesity Awareness
23 Month.

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