

FILED MAR 13 '01

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

2 BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES

3 (SUCCESSOR TO SCR 12)

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

9 WHEREAS, the federal Centers for Disease Control
10 and Prevention report that more than 50 percent of the
11 nation's adult population is overweight and at least
12 25 percent is obese; and

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

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

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

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

SCR 16

SCR 16

1 percent of colon cancer cases occur among obese
2 individuals; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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