

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1608

By Committee on Public Health and Welfare

2-1

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to review the effect of obesity in both adults and children on costly health complications such as diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and stroke, and health complications in children, and to report on current programs of the state designed to improve awareness of the problem of obesity and its treatment and to make recommendations to the Legislature for additions and improvements to the state programs prior to the convening of the 2002 session of the Legislature.

WHEREAS, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment maintains several multi-agency programs to improve the health of Kansans, young and old; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Healthy Kansans 2000 1996 report recognized obesity among the known risk factors contributing to serious health consequences; and

WHEREAS, A casual relationship exists between obesity and a number of serious disorders, including hypertension, dyclipedemia, cardiovascular disease, diabetes (Type II), gallbladder disease, respiratory dysfunction, gout, and osteoarthritis; and

WHEREAS, Nearly seventy percent of diagnosed cases of cardiovascular diseases are related to obesity, and obesity more than doubles a person's chances of developing high blood pressure, and almost half of breast cancer cases are diagnosed among obese women, and forty-two percent of colon cancer cases are among obese individuals; and

WHEREAS, Obesity ranks second only to smoking as a preventable cause of death and results in some three hundred thousand deaths annually; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that thirty-five percent of the adult population is obese and the prevalence of obesity grew a staggering thirty-four percent during the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, There is also great concern regarding what effect obesity in children may have on overall health in children, health care costs for children, and treatment to address the problem of obesity in children; and

1 WHEREAS, Insurance industry studies indicate that the total direct
2 costs of obesity-related diseases in the United States is as much as \$45.8
3 billion; and

4 WHEREAS, There is a significant potential for a reduction in health
5 care expenditures through obesity prevention efforts; and

6 WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for state health care agencies
7 and medical professionals to place obesity at the top of Kansas' health
8 care agenda; and

9 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Health, the American Society
10 for Bariatric Surgery, and the American Obesity Association recommend
11 that patients who are morbidly obese receive responsible, affordable med-
12 ical treatment for their obesity; and

13 WHEREAS, The recent breakthroughs in drug therapy can treat obe-
14 sity successfully; and

15 WHEREAS, A review by the Secretary of Health and Environment is
16 critical to raise the awareness of the public and private sectors that obesity
17 is a disease of epidemic proportions, that is treatable and that proper
18 treatment will reduce health care costs and improve the quality of life for
19 a large number of our citizens: Now, therefore,

20 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Rep-*
21 *resentatives concurring therein:* That we urge the Secretary of the De-
22 partment of Health and Environment to review the effect of obesity in
23 both adults and children on costly health complications such as diabetes,
24 hypertension, heart disease and stroke, and health complications in chil-
25 dren, and to report on current programs of the state designed to improve
26 awareness of the problem of obesity and its treatment and to make rec-
27 ommendations to the Legislature for additions and improvements to the
28 state programs prior to the convening of the 2002 session of the Legis-
29 lature; and

30 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of State be directed to send
31 a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the Kansas Department of
32 Health and Environment.

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