

CHAPTER 217

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 1604

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION concerning healthy eating and physical activity in public elementary and secondary schools.

WHEREAS, Kansas as well as the rest of our nation is experiencing an epidemic of child and adolescent obesity. In addition to our children being overweight and physically inactive they are becoming increasingly subject to acquiring Type II diabetes, a disease once associated with adults. Poor nutrition and physical inactivity are responsible for 28% of preventable deaths, second only to tobacco; and

WHEREAS, The causes of this epidemic are complex and multifaceted but primarily are due to increased caloric consumption and decreased physical activity. Unfortunately for many students their school meals rarely consist of a nutritionally balanced meal. While the federal government has established nutrition standards for school meals, many students' meals are obtained from vending machines which typically are high in fat, sugar and sodium but are low in essential nutrients such as vitamins and minerals; and

WHEREAS, While some of our secondary students participate in varsity sports competition and may have physical education classes, it is believed that the bulk of our students are physically inactive: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas, the House of Representatives concurring therein: That the Kansas Department of Education is hereby requested, in cooperation with other state agencies, private foundations and other private entities to study our state's public schools with regard to their school food programs, the availability of other food items available on school premises, any available classes on health and physical activities intended to promote healthy bodies and physical fitness, and to report to the legislature their findings and appropriate recommendations for improving the diets and physical well being of our students, and the implementation of such recommendations should result in creating healthy eating behaviors and appropriate exercise habits in our children which hopefully will remain with them throughout their lives;

Be it further resolved: That the Kansas Department of Education take the lead in this endeavor so critical to the well being of our students with the desire that suggested improvements to this problem be reported to the legislature by the start of the 2006 legislative session; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of the Kansas Department of Education.

Adopted by the House April 1, 2005.
Adopted by the Senate February 10, 2005.
