

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

BY SENATOR BROOME

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate May 12, 2008, as "Obesity Awareness Day" at the legislature.

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the annual economic impact of overweight and obese individuals in the United States is one hundred twenty-two billion nine hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is ranked the fourth highest state in the United States in the incidence of obesity; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana is ranked as one of the top ten states in total medical expenditures related to obesity; and

WHEREAS, obesity contributes to numerous costly and chronic co-morbid medical conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, stroke, hypertension, high cholesterol, gall bladder problems, sleep apnea, osteoarthritis, female infertility, and breast, prostate, and colon cancers; and

WHEREAS, sixty-three percent of Louisiana's adults are overweight, and obese adults have a thirty-six percent higher average annual medical expenditure than adults within a normal weight range; and

WHEREAS, more than thirty-five percent of Louisiana's children between the ages of ten and seventeen are considered overweight or obese, and the cost of child obesity-associated illness has increased from thirty-five million dollars to one hundred twenty-seven million dollars in the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, employers in Louisiana are interested in learning more about obesity and its impact on businesses in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Business Group on Health aims to champion employer-sponsored health and wellness initiatives by bringing together employers, health plans, providers, and public policy makers; and

WHEREAS, Johnson & Johnson, Ethicon Endo-Surgery, Inc., Obesity Action Coalition, the Louisiana Obesity Council, Ceridian LifeWorks, Gilsbar, the Louisiana Diabetic Association, LifeScan, and Surgical Specialists of Louisiana have partnered to have a discussion on the impact of obesity in Louisiana on Monday, May 12, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus have partnered to bring attention to obesity in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, participants in the discussion will have an opportunity to learn the economics of obesity and solutions that businesses can implement to help fight the disease; and

WHEREAS, Obesity Awareness Day will allow participants to provide education on the public health risks of obesity and to recognize that obesity is a statewide public health problem which may be impacted by public health initiatives such as health and physical education; and

WHEREAS, participants will be provided with treatment options for obesity, including preventive care, diet and exercise and surgery and long term follow-up care; and

WHEREAS, all members of the Louisiana Legislature and interested parties are encouraged to attend this event and to recognize the important issue of obesity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize the issues related to high rates of obesity, the rising health care costs related to obesity, and the necessity of dealing with these issues.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate May 12, 2008, as "Obesity Awareness Day" at the Legislature.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES