

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 119**

**WHEREAS**, Obesity is a serious public health concern in the United States, where more than 42 percent of all adults qualify as obese and the number of people with severe obesity continues to grow; in the State of Texas, the adult obesity rate is 34 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, Experts and researchers agree that obesity is a complex disease that is influenced by a variety of physiological, environmental, and genetic factors; those affected by the disease are at higher risk of developing many other health conditions, including type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, stroke, and some types of cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, While prevention programs have successfully established the seriousness of the public health crisis posed by obesity, it is also imperative that individuals and families with the disease receive comprehensive care and treatment; research suggests that losing as little as five to ten percent of total body weight can mitigate the health risks of obesity, but studies also show that the bias and stigma associated with the disease are significant barriers to effective treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, Health care professionals, policy makers, patients, and families should regard obesity with the same level of importance as other chronic diseases; further, obese patients should be treated with respect and compassion and should be provided with assistance in exploring options for weight loss and weight management, including reduced-calorie diets, physical activity, pharmacotherapy, and bariatric surgery; and

**WHEREAS**, Improving the treatment of obesity will require concerted action on a number of levels, and the observance of Obesity Care Week, which takes place from February 28 to March 6, 2021, serves to highlight the urgency of this public health issue and the need to implement a patient-centered, research-driven model of care; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby recognize February 28 to March 6, 2021, as Obesity Care Week in Texas and encourage all residents of the Lone Star State to learn more about lifestyle habits that can lead to better health.

Campbell

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 9, 2021.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate