

By: Rose

H.C.R. No. 168

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Obesity levels have been climbing dramatically in  
2 the United States over the last decade, and in Texas, obesity rates  
3 exceed the national average; and

4 WHEREAS, Texas cities currently hold five of the top 15 spots  
5 in the list of America's Fattest Cities, and if trends continue, the  
6 present situation will only worsen; research indicates that 40  
7 percent of fourth-graders in the state are already overweight; and

8 WHEREAS, Rising levels of obesity lead to increased rates of  
9 disease and disability; a person who is obese is much more likely  
10 than a person of normal weight to suffer from diabetes, high blood  
11 pressure, sleep apnea, osteoarthritis, gallbladder disease,  
12 coronary heart disease, stroke, and several types of cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, The State of Texas currently spends at least \$10  
14 billion annually to treat illnesses related to obesity, and it has  
15 been estimated that expenditures could rise to \$40 billion a year if  
16 the obesity epidemic is not addressed; and

17 WHEREAS, For individuals, the costs of obesity are also high;  
18 persons with obesity face yearly health expenses that are  
19 approximately 40 percent higher than those of people having normal  
20 weight, and workers who suffer from obesity lose twice as many days  
21 to sickness; and

22 WHEREAS, Prevention is the ideal means for countering  
23 obesity, and an understanding of the role of physical activity and  
24 good nutrition in promoting healthy weight management is vitally

1 important; and

2           WHEREAS, When such traditional treatments as diet, exercise,  
3 behavior modification, and drug therapy fail, surgical treatment  
4 can be a medically reasonable option for many patients; weight-loss  
5 surgery is costly and carries appreciable risk, but for many  
6 individuals with severe obesity, the continued failure to lose  
7 weight poses an even greater threat; and

8           WHEREAS, Obesity constitutes a major health concern in the  
9 Lone Star State, and comprehensive efforts are needed to combat  
10 this difficult, costly challenge; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
12 hereby encourage all Texans to become informed about the risks  
13 associated with obesity and with the full range of prevention and  
14 treatment strategies.