

By: Representatives Wardlaw, Vaught, L. Fite

By: Senators Irvin, T. Garner

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF THE HEALTHY ACTIVE ARKANSAS
INITIATIVE IN COMBATING OBESITY WITH A SYSTEMATIC,
STATEWIDE STRATEGY.

Subtitle

TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF THE HEALTHY ACTIVE
ARKANSAS INITIATIVE IN COMBATING OBESITY
WITH A SYSTEMATIC, STATEWIDE STRATEGY.

WHEREAS, according to a report entitled "Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas: Year 13" issued by Arkansas Center for Health Improvement in 2016, more than one-third (1/3) of children, adolescents, and adults in the United States of America are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, overweight and obese individuals are more likely to be at risk for cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, Type 2 diabetes, and joint problems; and

WHEREAS, as reported by Trust for America's Health, Arkansas has improved its ranking for obesity from first in 2015 to sixth in 2016 among all the states; and

WHEREAS, as reported by Trust for America's Health, Arkansas's obesity rate has dropped from thirty-five and nine-tenths percent (35.9%) to thirty-four and five-tenths percent (34.5%); and



WHEREAS, reversing the obesity epidemic will require investing in prevention, making healthy choices an easier part of people's daily lives, and targeting efforts in areas with the greatest challenges; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2015 report from Healthy Active Arkansas, reducing the average body mass index of Arkansans by five percent (5%) could lead to healthcare savings of more than two billion dollars (\$2,000,000,000) in ten (10) years and six billion dollars (\$6,000,000,000) in twenty (20) years, while also preventing thousands of cases of strokes, coronary heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Active Arkansas, also known as HAA, is a comprehensive plan to address these areas in a systematic manner that was initiated by leaders in the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Active Arkansas was officially endorsed and launched in 2015 by Governor Asa Hutchinson; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Active Arkansas offers a framework for encouraging and enabling healthier lifestyles in Arkansas with a "health in all policies" approach that encompasses the following nine (9) priority areas:

- (1) Physical and built environment;
- (2) Nutritional standards in government, institutions, and the private sector;
- (3) Nutritional standards in schools, early child care facilities, and colleges;
- (4) Physical education and activity in schools, early child care facilities, and colleges;
- (5) Healthy worksites;
- (6) Access to healthy foods;
- (7) Sugar-sweetened beverage reduction;
- (8) Breastfeeding; and
- (9) Marketing program; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas benefits both in quality of life and economically by preventing childhood obesity and adulthood obesity; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly acknowledges the effort by Healthy Active Arkansas to promote healthy living and reduce the obesity epidemic,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninety-First General Assembly, the Senate concurring:

(1) Recognize the importance of preventing childhood obesity and adulthood obesity;

(2) Support Healthy Active Arkansas and its nine (9) priority areas to address the obesity epidemic in the State of Arkansas; and

(3) Support a "health in all policies" approach with the specific goals and activities aimed at promoting healthy eating and physical activity and increasing awareness of Arkansas obesity rates among the citizens of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution an appropriate copy be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to the office of the Governor, the members of the House of Representatives, the members of the Senate, and other state government officials as appropriate.