

By: Senators Irvin, T. Garner  
By: Representatives Wardlaw, Vaught, L. Fite

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF HEALTHY ACTIVE ARKANSAS IN  
COMBATING OBESITY.

### **Subtitle**

SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF HEALTHY ACTIVE  
ARKANSAS IN COMBATING OBESITY.

WHEREAS, more than one-third (1/3) of children, adolescents, and adults are overweight or obese in the United States according to the 2016 "Assessment of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity in Arkansas: Year 13" and the Trust for America's Health reports; 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, Arkansas improved its ranking for obesity from first in 2015 to sixth in 2016 among all the states, with the Arkansas obesity rate dropping from thirty-five and nine-tenths percent (35.9%) to thirty-four and five-tenths percent (34.5%) as reported by the Trust for America's Health; and

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



WHEREAS, according to the 2015 Healthy Active Arkansas Report, reducing the average body mass index of Arkansans by five percent (5%) could lead to health care 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 stroke, coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Active Arkansas is a comprehensive plan to address these areas in a systematic manner that was initiated by leaders in the public and private sector and 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 eight (8) priority areas: physical and built environment; nutritional standards in government, institutions, and the private sector; nutritional standards in schools, from early child care through college; healthy worksites; access to healthy foods; sugar-sweetened beverage reduction; breastfeeding; and a marketing program,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the General Assembly recognizes the importance of preventing childhood and adulthood obesity and supports Healthy Active Arkansas and the eight (8) priority areas to address the obesity epidemic.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the General Assembly encourages a “health in all policies” approach with specific goals and activities aimed at promoting healthy eating and physical activity and increasing awareness of Arkansas obesity rates among all ages and walks of life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Senate shall mail a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Director of the Department of Health, and each member of the Arkansas

congressional delegation.