

Introduced by Senator Monning

March 25, 2015

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 34—Relative to Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 34, as introduced, Monning. Childhood Obesity Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of September 2015, and each year thereafter, as Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, and would express the Legislature’s support of various programs that work to reduce obesity among children.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Childhood obesity is recognized as a national
2 epidemic and can contribute to low self-esteem, poor body image,
3 eating disorders, and depression; and
4 WHEREAS, Overweight children are at a greater risk of
5 developing many health problems during childhood, including
6 type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, asthma, and orthopedic
7 problems; and
8 WHEREAS, Overweight children are more likely to be obese
9 as adults, putting them at a much higher risk for heart disease,
10 stroke, high blood pressure, arthritis, asthma, dental erosion, certain
11 types of cancer, and other disabilities later in life; and
12 WHEREAS, Childhood obesity has more than doubled in
13 children and quadrupled in adolescents in the past three decades;
14 and

1 WHEREAS, In California, nearly 40 percent of children are
2 considered overweight or obese; and

3 WHEREAS, No group has escaped these increased obesity
4 trends, and the problem is particularly concerning among
5 low-income individuals and communities of color. If the current
6 obesity trends are not reversed, it is predicted that one in three
7 children born in the year 2000 will develop type 2 diabetes in their
8 lifetime, and nearly one-half of Latino and African American
9 children are likely to develop the disease; and

10 WHEREAS, Those that are overweight, obese, or physically
11 inactive are estimated to cost California tens of billions of dollars
12 for medical care, workers' compensation, and lost productivity;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Childhood obesity is a preventable public health
15 epidemic that can be addressed through a number of public policies
16 and community initiatives, which includes, but are not limited to,
17 providing equitable access to safe places to play, increasing access
18 to affordable healthful foods and beverages, and providing less
19 access to high-calorie foods and sugar-sweetened beverages; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
22 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature proclaims the month of
23 September 2015, and each year thereafter, as Childhood Obesity
24 Awareness Month in California; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That the Legislature supports programs that work to
26 increase exercise among children, work to educate children about
27 healthy eating and drinking habits, and work to remove barriers
28 that contribute to sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy eating and
29 drinking habits; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies to
31 the author for appropriate distribution.