

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
TENNESSEE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
REGARDING  
HEALTHY FOOD CHOICES IN GROCERIES

WHEREAS, school systems across the state of Tennessee continue to prioritize the health and well-being of all children through their efforts to increase structured physical activity for children in pre-kindergarten through the eighth grade, and with their implementation of the “Junk Food” bill mandates; and;

WHEREAS, overweight and obesity now affect 2/3 of the U.S. population and 1/3 of children are overweight or at risk of being overweight; and;

WHEREAS, 27.8% of Tennessee adults are obese and 20.9% of Tennessee’s children are overweight; and;

WHEREAS, overweight and obesity are linked with the development of many health problems, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease; and;

WHEREAS, findings published in the American Journal of Health Promotion show that for men employed full time in the labor market, the combined annual per capita cost of being obese, including medical expenses and absenteeism, ranges from \$460 to \$2,030 and for women ranges from \$1,370 to \$2,485; and ;

WHEREAS, in a study documenting the costs associated with specific levels of obesity in the American workplace, researchers at RTI International and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention have found that the average annual per capita costs associated with obesity increase as body mass index increases; and;

WHEREAS, the risk for overweight and obesity has been linked with multiple factors, including the lack of access to healthful foods;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Public Health Association urges the Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association to urge members to offer healthy food choices that would increase access to healthy, culturally acceptable vegetables, fruits, legumes, grains and low calorie, low fat beverages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tennessee Public Health Association supports the continued efforts of the Coordinated School Health Program in the fulfillment of their mission to improve the lives of students and their families through health education, physical education/physical activity, health services, and nutrition services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be furnished to the Tennessee Grocers and Convenience Store Association, the Tennessee Commissioner of Health, and the Tennessee Department of Education Office of Coordinated School Health, and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this association.

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Glenn Czarnecki  
President

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Doris Spain  
Executive Director

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Karen Lynn  
Chair, Resolutions Committee

References:

1. Tennessee Department of Education, Office of Coordinated School Health
2. American Public Health Association, Policy Number 200072, 11/6/2007
3. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System
4. Healthamericans.org, Tennessee index