



1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Obesity is caused by multiple factors, including  
3 genetic predisposition, environmental factors, and lifestyle  
4 factors; and

5 WHEREAS, Obesity ranks second only to smoking as a  
6 preventable cause of death; and

7 WHEREAS, Great concern has also been expressed regarding  
8 the effect that obesity in children may have on their overall  
9 health, health care costs, and treatment; and

10 WHEREAS, A causal relationship exists between obesity and a  
11 number of serious disorders, including hypertension,  
12 dyslipidemia, cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes,  
13 gallbladder disease, respiratory dysfunction, gout, and  
14 osteoarthritis; and

15 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive  
16 and Kidney Diseases provides information that indicates that  
17 nearly 80% of patients with type 2 diabetes are obese, and the  
18 incidence of symptomatic gallstones soars as a person's body  
19 mass index increases beyond a certain level; and

20 WHEREAS, The information also reveals that nearly 70% of  
21 diagnosed cases of cardiovascular disease are related to  
22 obesity, obesity more than doubles a person's chances of  
23 developing high blood pressure, almost one-half of breast  
24 cancer cases are diagnosed among obese women, and 42% of colon  
25 cancer cases occur among obese individuals; and

26 WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for State health care  
27 groups and medical societies to place obesity at the top of  
28 Illinois' health care agenda; and

1           WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health, the American  
2           Society for Bariatric Surgery, and the American Obesity  
3           Association recommend that patients who are morbidly obese  
4           receive responsible, affordable medical treatment for their  
5           obesity; and

6           WHEREAS, The diagnosis of morbid obesity should be a  
7           clinical decision made by a physician based on proper medical  
8           protocols; and

9           WHEREAS, The recent breakthroughs in drug therapy can treat  
10          obesity successfully, and the New England Journal of Medicine  
11          has emphasized the legitimate use of pharmacotherapy as a  
12          component of treatment of medically significant obesity; and

13          WHEREAS, The breakthroughs in obesity treatment are not  
14          widely known and efforts must be made to inform the general  
15          public and health care professionals that pharmacotherapy can  
16          be used as an effective and cost-efficient treatment for  
17          obesity; and

18          WHEREAS, It is critical to raise the awareness of the  
19          public and private sectors that obesity is a problem of  
20          epidemic proportions that is treatable and that proper  
21          treatment will reduce health care costs and improve the quality  
22          of life for a large number of our citizens; therefore, be it

23          RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
24          ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the Senate acknowledges  
25          obesity as a growing epidemic and encourages improvement in  
26          awareness and treatment of the problems of obesity; and be it  
27          further

28          RESOLVED, That the medical community and the Illinois  
29          Department of Public Health commit to combating obesity through  
30          a myriad of tools deemed appropriate for the individual,

1 including, but not limited to, nutrition education,  
2 pharmacotherapy, and exercise; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly designates the month of  
4 May 2005 as Obesity Awareness Month.