

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6017

By Committee on Appropriations

2-15

9 A RESOLUTION recognizing the prevalence of excess weight and obe-
10 sity within the African American, Hispanic/Latino American and Na-
11 tive American communities, its impact on diabetes and cardiovascular
12 disease, urging advocacy for access to innovative and improved treat-
13 ment options and improved provider reimbursement rates to address
14 the issue.

15
16 WHEREAS, The prevalence of excess body weight and obesity poses
17 a significant public health challenge and is a major contributor to prev-
18 entable death in the United States. Sixty-three percent of adults in the
19 United States are overweight or obese, with 26.7% considered obese.
20 Obesity produces medical costs in the United States of an estimated 147
21 billion dollars annually, representing nearly 9.1% of annual medical
22 spending; and

23 WHEREAS, The Body Mass Index (BMI), a standard method of meas-
24 uring body weight, measures height and weight in kilograms per meter
25 squared, with excess or overweight defined as a BMI of 25 to 29, and
26 obese defined as a BMI greater than 30; and

27 WHEREAS, A significant health threat, obesity should be treated as a
28 chronic condition. Overweight and obese individuals are at increased risk
29 for many diseases and health conditions, including type 2 diabetes, hy-
30 pertension, stroke, cardiovascular disease, high blood cholesterol, osteo-
31 arthritis, sleep apnea and other breathing problems, gallbladder disease
32 and some forms of cancer. By treating individuals with excess weight and
33 obesity, the long-term interests of the community as well as employers
34 are served by reducing a major contributor to diseases, such as diabetes,
35 which disproportionately impact the African American, Hispanic/Latino
36 American and Native American communities; and

37 WHEREAS, Obesity is a major medical risk factor for diabetes in Af-
38 rican Americans, Hispanic/Latino Americans and Native Americans.
39 Studies have shown substantially higher rates of obesity in adult African,
40 Hispanic/Latino and Native Americans who had diabetes, compared to
41 those who did not have diabetes; and

42 WHEREAS, Promoting regular physical activity and healthy eating and
43 creating environments that support these behaviors are essential to ad-

1 dressing the problem of excess weight across the population. Studies show
2 that if a person is overweight or obese, reducing body weight by just 5 to
3 10% can improve one's health. African Americans, Hispanic/Latino
4 Americans and Native Americans are more likely to be concentrated in
5 areas with poor socio-environmental conditions that provide few physical
6 activity and healthy eating options; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a need to improve physician and patient knowl-
8 edge, attitudes and practices in the treatment of excess weight and obesity
9 in the African American, Hispanic/Latino American and Native American
10 communities, including working holistically to generate effective obesity
11 interventions in these communities: Now, therefore,

12 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:*
13 That we do hereby recognize the importance of addressing excess weight
14 and obesity as a means of supporting overall health within our community;
15 and

16 *Be it further resolved:* That we urge our members to advocate for both
17 public and private health insurers to provide access to innovative and
18 improved treatment options, as well as improved health care provider
19 reimbursement rates to address this critical issue within the African
20 American, Hispanic/Latino American and Native American populations.