

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 193

BY SENATOR BARROW

A RESOLUTION

To recognize Monday, June 7, 2021, as Louisiana Childhood Obesity Awareness Day and commend efforts to prevent and combat childhood obesity in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines obesity as a Body Mass Index at or above the ninety-fifth percentile for children and teens of the same age and sex; and

WHEREAS, twenty percent of Louisiana children between ten and seventeen years old have obesity, ranking Louisiana sixth highest in childhood obesity among the states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, children affected by obesity are seventy percent more likely to continue being affected by obesity as adults; and

WHEREAS, children with obesity are more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, asthma, and fatty liver disease and to experience anxiety, depression, bullying, low self-esteem, and weight stigma during childhood which extracts high physical and monetary tolls among Louisiana residents and American society; and

WHEREAS, genetics, poor nutrition, food insecurity, community design and safety, adverse childhood events, poor sleep, and low levels of physical activity are major contributors to childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana pediatricians and research scientists recognize the health threats inherent in obesity and work collaboratively to improve the health and futures of Louisiana's children; and

WHEREAS, the greater understanding of the complexities of obesity yielded by those collaborations have identified the roles that being overweight or having obesity play in diabetes and other chronic diseases that afflict a disproportionate share of Louisiana children; and

WHEREAS, this improved understanding of obesity and its negative impact on a growing number of Louisiana's children is informing statewide outreach initiatives to combat Louisiana's childhood obesity epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes that Louisiana's children are our state's most valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature recognizes the dedicated physicians and research scientists who are working to curtail and eliminate childhood obesity in Louisiana.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate Monday, June 7, 2021, as Louisiana Childhood Obesity Awareness Day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate of the Louisiana Legislature does hereby commend the professionals providing health care to children who are overweight or have obesity, conducting obesity research, and implementing important outreach programs across Louisiana aimed at preventing and reducing obesity among Louisiana's children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE