**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO RECOGNIZE THAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY HAS A PROFOUND IMPACT AND IS A SERIOUS HEALTH RISK FOR YOUTH IN THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT STATE TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.

Whereas, with the third highest childhood obesity rate in the United States, South Carolina currently has 39.2 percent of its youth who are overweight or obese; and

Whereas, children who are overweight or obese as preschoolers are five times more likely than normal‑weight children to be overweight or obese as adults; and

Whereas, childhood obesity has more than tripled in the past thirty years; and

Whereas, obesity in adulthood is likely to be more severe in children who were overweight; and

Whereas, the Senate acknowledges and accepts that each member of the body is a role model for young people throughout his or her district and the State; and

Whereas, the Senate encourages the creation of meaningful public and private partnerships between community members and civic organizations to make community changes that promote healthy eating and active living and to play a significant role in addressing this serious health issue across the Palmetto State; and

Whereas, healthy lifestyle habits, including healthy eating and physical activity, can lower the risk of becoming obese and developing diseases associated with and exacerbated by obesity; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate can participate in such events as the 38th annual Cooper River Bridge Run in 2015 and any future events in other areas of the State, every year going forward, thereby making an impact in reducing obesity among our youth through advocacy, awareness, and example; and

Whereas, the members of the Senate can demonstrate healthy lifestyle choices through participation in statewide and local events that focus on eliminating childhood obesity and on encouraging healthy lifestyle choices that include prevention measures and physical activity. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, recognizes that childhood obesity has a profound impact and is a serious health risk for youth in the State of South Carolina and encourages all citizens of this great State to participate in activities that promote healthy eating and physical activity.

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