

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1999

292C0876

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1009

Introduced by: Representatives Fischer-Clemens, Burg, Cerny, Chicoine, Clark, Davis, Diedrich (Elmer), Hanson, Kazmerzak, Koehn, Koetzle, Lockner, McIntyre, Patterson, Solum, Sutton (Daniel), Sutton (Duane), Weber, Wetz, Wilson, and Windhorst and Senators Moore, Dennert, Duxbury, Flowers, Kloucek, Lange, Madden, Munson (David), Reedy, Staggers, and Symens

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Declaring June 1999 as Obesity Awareness Month.

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

4 WHEREAS, obesity ranks second only to smoking as a preventable cause of death and
5 results in some three hundred thousand deaths annually; and

6 WHEREAS, it is estimated that thirty-five percent of the adult population is obese, and the
7 prevalence of obesity grew a shocking thirty-four percent in the last ten years; and

8 WHEREAS, there also is a great concern regarding the effect that obesity may have on
9 children and on their overall health, health care costs, and treatment; and

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

13 WHEREAS, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases provides
14 information that indicates that nearly eighty percent of patients with diabetes mellitus are obese,
15 and the incidence of symptomatic gallstones soars as a person's body mass index increases

1 beyond a certain level; and

2 WHEREAS, the information also reveals that nearly seventy percent of diagnosed cases of
3 cardiovascular disease are related to obesity, obesity more than doubles a person's chance of
4 developing high blood pressure, almost one-half of breast cancer cases are diagnosed among
5 obese women, and forty-two percent of colon cancer cases are among obese individuals; and

6 WHEREAS, a 1997 study by Kaiser Permanente indicated that the total direct costs of
7 obesity-related disease in the United States in 1990 was forty-five billion eight hundred million
8 dollars; and

9 WHEREAS, the Kaiser study concluded that there was significant potential for a reduction
10 in health care expenditures through obesity prevention efforts; and

11 WHEREAS, The Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health estimates that
12 only twenty-four percent of the United States population engages in regular physical activity,
13 fifty-two percent are intermittently active, and twenty-five percent are entirely sedentary; and

14 WHEREAS, the Interdisciplinary Council on Lifestyle and Obesity Management indicates
15 that healthy lifestyle modifications should include increased physical activity, with an emphasis
16 on moderate forms of exertion; and

17 WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for state health care groups and medical societies to
18 place obesity at the top of South Dakota's health care agenda; and

19 WHEREAS, the National Institutes of Health, the American Society for Bariatric Surgery,
20 and the American Obesity Association recommend that patients who are morbidly obese receive
21 responsible, affordable medical treatment for their obesity; and

22 WHEREAS, the diagnosis of morbid obesity should be a clinical decision made by a
23 physician based on proper medical protocols; and

24 WHEREAS, the recent breakthroughs in drug therapy can treat obesity successfully, and the
25 New England Journal of Medicine recently emphasized the legitimate use of pharmacotherapy

1 as a component of treatment of medically significant obesity; and

2 WHEREAS, the new breakthroughs in obesity treatment are not widely known and efforts
3 must be made to inform the general public and health care professionals that pharmacotherapy
4 can be used as an effective and cost-effective treatment for obesity; and

5 WHEREAS, it is critical to raise the awareness of the public and private sectors that obesity
6 is a problem of epidemic proportions and that proper treatment will reduce health care costs and
7 improve the quality of life for a large number of our citizens:

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-
9 fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the
10 Legislature acknowledges obesity as a growing epidemic and encourages improvement in
11 awareness and treatment of the problems of obesity; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the medical community be urged to commit itself to
13 combating obesity through the myriad of tools deemed appropriate for the individual, including
14 nutrition, pharmacotherapy, and exercise; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature designates the month of June 1999 as
16 Obesity Awareness Month.