

1 VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY
2 RESOLUTION

3
4 **Preventing Childhood Obesity**

5
6 *Adopted on October 3, 2009*

7
8 WHEREAS, 26 percent of youth in Vermont grades eight to 12 are overweight or at
9 risk for being overweight¹; and

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11 WHEREAS, nationally, severe childhood obesity rates have tripled in the last 25 years²;
12 and

13
14 WHEREAS, children who are overweight have a more than two-thirds chance of being
15 overweight or obese as adults³, and

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17 WHEREAS, being obese as an adult increases the risk of suffering from chronic
18 diseases, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and some
19 forms of cancer⁴, and

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21 WHEREAS, more than 75 percent of health care costs are due to chronic conditions⁵,
22 and

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24 WHEREAS, childhood obesity threatens not only the future health and well being of
25 the state's residents, but also the sustainability of Vermont's health care system,
26 therefore be it

27
28 **RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society declares childhood obesity to be**
29 **a major public health issue; and be it further**

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31 **RESOLVED, that the Vermont Medical Society calls upon the appropriate public**
32 **and private entities, including the Agency for Human Services, the Department of**
33 **Education, the Governor, the legislature, and the state's health care professionals**
34 **to study and adopt public policy that reduces, mitigates or eliminates the**
35 **impending childhood obesity crisis, with potential actions including but not**
36 **limited to:**

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¹ "Obesity and Health Status Report 2006," Vermont Department of Health

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/chronic/documents/ObesityHealth2006.pdf>

² "Obesity Expert at Brenner Children's Hospital Says Rates of Severe Childhood Obesity have Tripled,"
Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center

<http://www1.wfubmc.edu/News/NewsArticle.htm?ArticleID=2674>

³ "Obesity and Health Status Report 2006," Vermont Department of Health

<http://www.healthvermont.gov/research/chronic/documents/ObesityHealth2006.pdf>

⁴ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the U.S. Surgeon General,

<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/obesityprevention/about/index.html>

⁵ "Chronic Diseases at a Glance," Centers for Disease Control,

<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/publications/AAG/pdf/chronic.pdf>

- 1 ○ **Eliminating sales of sugared drinks and candy from all public K-12**
- 2 **schools;**
- 3 ○ **Advocate for reimbursement for the diagnosis and management of obesity;**
- 4 ○ **Reviewing current physical education requirements in the state’s public**
- 5 **schools in order to determine if increased requirements are necessary and**
- 6 **or viable;**
- 7 ○ **Establishing funding for grants that encourage public schools to engage in**
- 8 **innovative and creative childhood obesity prevention programs; and**
- 9 ○ **Study the prevalence of “junk food” marketing directed toward children in**
- 10 **Vermont and research and recommend potential methods of restricting or**
- 11 **eliminating such marketing.**