VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Reducing Consumption of Sweetened Drinks to Improve the Health of Vermonter

Adopted on November 7, 2015

WHEREAS, over 58% of Vermont adults and nearly 27% of Vermont youth are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, 21% of all U.S. health care costs are spent on obesity-related conditions; and

WHEREAS, estimated annual obesity-related medical costs for the state of Vermont are $163 million; and

WHEREAS, consumption of sugar sweetened beverages has increased 500% in the past fifty years and is now the single largest category of caloric intake in children, surpassing milk in the late 1990s; and

WHEREAS, sugar sweetened beverages account for at least one-fifth of the weight gained between 1977 and 2007 in the U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, studies suggest that a 10% price increase for beverages through taxation would decrease consumption by about 8-10%, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the VMS support a two-cent-per-ounce excise tax on sweetened beverages; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all the revenue be used to provide greater access to health care to low income Vermonter, subsidizing the purchase of healthy foods for low-income Vermonter and funding obesity prevention/education efforts that are evidence-based.