

RESOLUTION

Subject: Prevention and Treatment of Obesity in the Commonwealth of Kentucky
 Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society
 Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, the prevalence of severe obesity has nearly doubled from 4.7 % to 9.2% between 1999-2018. Obesity-related conditions range from heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. They are also some of the leading causes of preventable deaths¹, disability, and unemployment benefits²; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual medical cost of obesity in the United States was \$190.2 billion (21% of annual medical spending). These costs will continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, the current state is that our patients have a brief 10-15 minute lifestyle change education during an office visit. They wind up trying fad diets, possibly take supplements on their own, and continue to search for quick fixes such as pharmaceutical options, and/or surgery that may or may not be covered by insurance; and

WHEREAS, obesity is a chronic preventable disease that ideally needs a whole system approach to tackle. From food policy and public health initiatives; regulatory government, community campaigns, employer initiatives; insurance plan initiatives; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the KMA assemble a strategic task force to review proven best practice public health initiatives, community campaigns, evidence-based guidelines on treatment of obesity, and to further promote new initiatives and resolutions that target the prevention and treatment of obesity.

References:

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/index.html>

² <https://www.healthycommunitieshealthyfuture.org/learn-the-facts/economic-costs-of-obesity/>