



## Resolution of Support for The SHAPE Act of 2009

**WHEREAS** childhood obesity has become a national epidemic, and is a major modifiable risk factor for several chronic diseases, most notably heart disease, stroke, diabetes, asthma and even cancer;

**WHEREAS** 16% (over 9 million) of children in the United States ages 6-19 are overweight or obese, a number which has tripled since 1980;

**WHEREAS** the prevalence of childhood obesity in Georgia is staggering with 15,000 2-4 year olds; 28,000 3rd grade children; 43,000 middle school students; and 62,000 high school students falling above the 95th percentile for BMI. Our obesity rates are significantly higher than those of other states, and our children are more severely overweight;

**WHEREAS** research conducted by the Georgia Department of Human Resources indicates that the percentage of obese children in Georgia is four times the expected rate;

**WHEREAS** 1 in 3 children in Georgia are obese or overweight;

**WHEREAS** childhood obesity is the greatest predictor of obesity during adulthood; approximately 80 percent of children who are overweight at age 10 will be obese adults at age 25;

**WHEREAS** obesity is costly to Georgia as well. Our state spends \$2.1 billion per year in costs associated with obesity from childhood through adulthood. Approximately \$385 million of this amount is paid for by Medicaid, which represents 10 percent of the total Medicaid budget;

**WHEREAS** recent studies suggest a positive correlation between students that participate in regular physical education during the school day and increased academic performance & attention span.

**WHEREAS** school-based health and physical education programs are critical components of a comprehensive strategy for addressing the childhood obesity epidemic;

Be it therefore **RESOLVED** that the undersigned organization endorses the 2009 SHAPE Act as a reasonable tactic to address the issue of childhood obesity in the State of Georgia, and should yield the following results:

- Increased awareness about the importance of health and physical activity;
- Reduce the prevalence of overweight or obese children in Georgia
- Allow the State Board of Education to assess currently existing methodologies so as to formulate informed decisions about future policy in this arena;
- Save millions of dollars in future expenditures for obesity related illnesses in both the public and private sector;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the undersigned organization will:

- Inform its members and the general public of its endorsement of this resolution;
- Inform the office of the Governor as well as members of the members of the Georgia General Assembly of its endorsement of this resolution to the extent permitted by law, and urge its members to do the same.

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return to: Bill Burns at (678) 224-2085 (fax) or [bill.burns@heart.org](mailto:bill.burns@heart.org). For more information call (678)392-6298.*