



State of Connecticut
HOUSE REPUBLICAN OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONN. 06106

Public Health Committee
Public Hearing
Wednesday, February 27, 2013

**Testimony In Support of, House Bill No. 5746, AN ACT CONCERNING A TASK FORCE
ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY.**

Good morning Co-Chairs Gerratana and Johnson, Ranking Members Welch and Srinivasan and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 5746, AN ACT CONCERNING A TASK FORCE ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY.

Adult diabetes is the fastest growing disease in America and impacts almost 10% of all adults. Of those adults 68% have co existing disease and issues with heart disease along with various other less known medical conditions. Diabetes costs our country inordinate amounts of money 174 billion dollars just in 2007 (the last statistics made publically available). We believe that in order to reduce the number of individuals with this diseases we need to intervene at much younger ages.

If a child is obese then they are being committed to a life of healthcare and social issues. We believe early intervention is a must for the future of our children and our State and Country. This is an issue that we all should be gravely concerned and committed to implementation of best practice to positively impact on lives and the economics of our citizens.

It is our belief, that much like the issue of seatbelt use in automobiles, where there was direct and concerted education of the children and we saw many children then advocating with their parents for seatbelt usage, along with law implementation and enforcement had a direct positive effect. The issue of obesity and healthy food (life) choices can be directly impacted by addressing the issues of childhood obesity.

A task force to study and make recommendations to the Legislature on best practice and how to impact on this State crisis is very much needed. We, the House Republican Women's Caucus hope that the Committee will consider moving this Bill forward.