

National Conference of State Legislatures website

- Childhood obesity rates tripled over past 30 years with more than 23 million children (ages 2-19) either obese or overweight
- Among children and adolescents, annual hospital costs related to obesity were \$127 million during 1997-1999 up from \$35 million 1979-1981
- By adulthood, obesity-associated chronic diseases – heart disease, some cancers, stroke, diabetes – are the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th leading US causes of death

From Health Affairs March 2010 issue

- Estimated annual cost of treating obesity-related illness in adults reached \$147 billion in 2009
- Average annual claims cost of children with type II diabetes is \$10,789, exceeding the \$8,844 average claims cost for adults with the same condition
- Children who are obese after age 6 have a greater than 50% of being obese as adults; 80% of children who were overweight at ages 10-15 were obese at age 25

From Preventing Chronic Disease July 2007 issue

- Bills and resolutions related to statewide initiatives, studies, task forces represent a first capacity-building step in a process leading toward more comprehensive programs and policies

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded Healthy Eating Research program: National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care

- 24.4% of children ages 2 through 5 years are classified as either overweight or obese
- In the US, nearly 74% of children ages 3 to 6 years are in some form of non-parental care and just over half of these children are in center-based childcare
- In a ranking of states with regard to policy and regulatory standards on physical activity and nutrition for childcare facilities, Montana received a C grade

HB 267 Specific

- HB 267 provides standards for early childhood health promotion through promoting nutrient-rich meals, providing daily, age appropriate opportunities for physical activity and limiting the amount of time children spend viewing electronic media such as television and computer games.
- Bill is modeled after Delaware's legislation and they are the first state to implement comprehensive guidelines for nutrition & physical activity
- A 2008 report by Nemours found that childcare centers in Delaware found that implementation was not difficult and generally cost effective
- Montana's childcare providers are professionals, not baby sitters and as such, we should provide them with quality standards so that they can provide the best care for our children.
- Currently Montana is piloting a new state program to enhance the quality of childcare that children receive in daycare and pre-school. The Best Beginnings STARS to Quality Program is designed to train and certify childcare providers to better meet the needs of children and HB 267 is a nice compliment to this program.