
HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representative Sullivan

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
5 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

6 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
7 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
8 represent and petition as follows:

9 WHEREAS, Childhood obesity, diabetes, and cardiorespiratory disease
10 are but three examples of the significant health risks and diseases
11 faced by children as a result of a combination of insufficient physical
12 activity and a sedentary lifestyle; and

13 WHEREAS, Based on the Washington Healthy Youth survey, more than
14 ten percent of adolescents are overweight and an additional ten percent
15 are at risk for being overweight; and

16 WHEREAS, Nationally, the percent of children who are overweight has
17 tripled in the last thirty years; and

18 WHEREAS, To counter these trends, public schools must be supported
19 to implement high quality physical education to include lifetime sport

1 and lifetime fitness as integral aspects of a complete health and
2 fitness curriculum; and

3 WHEREAS, Beginning in the 2009-10 school year, all Washington
4 public schools must assess students' knowledge and skills in health and
5 fitness based on the essential academic learning requirements through
6 classroom-based assessments in elementary, middle, and high school; and

7 WHEREAS, Washington students are held to the same expectations
8 regarding their knowledge and skills in health and fitness as they are
9 for other subjects not tested on the Washington assessment of student
10 learning; and

11 WHEREAS, As a result, there is little logic for Washington students
12 not to have a highly qualified teacher for health and fitness,
13 including physical education, when a highly qualified teacher is
14 required for history, government, geography, economics, civics, and the
15 arts; and

16 WHEREAS, The federal No Child Left Behind Act does not mention or
17 reference physical education as a core academic subject area;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
19 President and Congress make a positive change in the reauthorization of
20 the No Child Left Behind Act to include health and fitness, including
21 physical education, as a core academic subject area, to be taught by
22 highly qualified teachers.

23 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
24 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United
25 States, the Secretary of the United States Department of Education, the
26 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
27 Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
28 Washington.

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