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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

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State of Washington                      61st Legislature                      2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan, Simpson, and Kenney

Read first time 01/13/09. Referred to Committee on Education.

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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