



Partnership for a Healthy Texas

Conquering Obesity

AARP

American Cancer Society

American Diabetes Association

American Heart Association

Center for Public Policy Priorities

Children at Risk

Children's Hospital Association of Texas

Children's Medical Center Dallas

The Cooper Institute

East Texas AHEC

Harris County Public Health and Environmental
Services

Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas

Michael & Susan Dell Center for Advancement of
Healthy Living

National Federation of Independent Business

National Wildlife Federation

Scott and White Memorial Hospital, Temple

Secondary and Elementary Administrators for Health,
Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

Sustainable Food Center

Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health

Texas A&M Cooperative Extension

Texas Action for Healthy Kids Alliance

Texas Association for Health, Physical Education,
Recreation and Dance

Texas Association of Health Plans

Texas Association of Local Health Officials

Texas Association for School Nutrition

Texas Association of School Boards

Texas Bicycle Coalition

Texans Care for Children

Texas Diabetes Program/Council

Texas Dietetic Association

Texas Health Institute

Texas Medical Association

Texas Oral Health Coalition

Texas Pediatric Society

Texas PTA

Texas School Health Association

Texas School Nurses Organization

Trans Texas Alliance

University Interscholastic League

University of North Texas Health Science Center

University of Texas at Austin

Youth Interactive

Advisors:

Comptroller of Public Accounts

Senate Committee on Health & Human Services

Texas Department of Agriculture

Texas Department of State Health Services

Texas Department of Transportation

Texas Education Agency

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Press Release

for immediate release

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(Austin, TX) – The Partnership for a Healthy Texas, a partnership of public health and advocacy organizations focused on reducing obesity rates in Texas, has released their legislative priorities for the upcoming 81st Regular Session. “Our goal is to raise awareness and reduce the number of individuals impacted by obesity, said Michelle Smith, Partnership Chair. Currently over 64% of all adult Texans are either overweight or obese. The financial burden of obesity on Texas businesses was an estimated \$3.3 billion in 2005 and continues to be a critical health problem. Seventy-five percent of these high costs are the result of preventable chronic health conditions including obesity and its comorbidities (e.g., high blood pressure, high cholesterol, cardiovascular disease and Type II diabetes)”.

“Texas’ future economic well-being is inextricably linked to its health. By investing now in the policy recommendations submitted by the Partnership, the Texas Legislature can continue to lead the nation in obesity-prevention policies in schools. But schools alone will not be able to solve the obesity crisis. The Texas Legislature must take bold steps to help families, businesses, faith-based groups, and other community-based organizations and agencies join forces to fight obesity and prevent the resulting chronic conditions that have overburdened our healthcare system,” Joel Romo, Legislative Chair.

The united front used by the Partnership to approach public policies that impact obesity has been welcomed by legislators and agencies alike. During the 80th Legislative Session, the Partnership was successful in passing major legislation impacting obesity, including legislation addressing physical education, nutrition,

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coordinated school health, and worksite wellness. The Partnership was also successful in helping strengthen current legislation and working to pass the Texas Fruit and Vegetable Month Proclamation.

During the 2009 Legislative Session, the Partnership for a Health Texas will be supporting efforts to fund coordinated school health, strengthen the School Health Advisory Councils throughout Texas, promote built environments that integrate physical activity into daily life and provide incentives for employers to establish worksite wellness programs.

The Partnership for a Healthy Texas coalition is comprised of over 40 organizations aimed at developing and promoting programs aimed at preventing and treating obesity in Texas.

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