



Senate Finance Committee
Department of State Health Services: Obesity Prevention
Legislative Appropriations Request Hearing
February 12, 2009

Chairman Ogden and members of the Committee, I am representing the Partnership for a Healthy Texas: Conquering Obesity. The Partnership develops and promotes policies and programs that prevent obesity in Texas. We:

- Encourage collaboration among all interested parties in reducing obesity
- Inform policy makers about the consequences of the disease
- Promote evidence-based strategies at multiple levels: individual, family, community and policy levels
- Serve as a resource for people interested in addressing obesity prevention and treatment

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony today. The Partnership strongly supports the Department of State Health Service (DSHS) exceptional item request item #11 for Chronic Disease Prevention. One initiative proposed in that exceptional item is the funding of the Healthy People/Healthy Communities (HP/HC) Program. HP/HC is a community-level program similar to the comprehensive tobacco control model endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and used effectively in several Texas communities in the past. Supporting Texas communities to work together to control obesity is a best practice and one that the Partnership asks the Legislature to support.

Attached you will find the Partnership for a Healthy Texas' briefing paper on this issue, along with a full list of the Partnership's priorities this legislative session and a list of the 42 organizations that have endorsed these priorities.

Thank you again for your time and commitment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me 512.473.2274 or to see the Partnership website at <http://www.partnershipforahealthytexas.org>.

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