



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### NLGA Consensus Resolution in Recognition of the Importance of Addressing Obesity as a Chronic Health Issue

**WHEREAS**, obesity is a growing epidemic recognized as a disease by many leading medical professional, patient organizations and government agencies including the American Medical Association, American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Board of Obesity Medicine, Endocrine Society, the Obesity Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and

**WHEREAS**, obesity is caused by a range of biologic, genetic, social, behavioral, and environmental factors, which may increase the risk for various chronic conditions, including type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and some cancers, and

**WHEREAS**, nationwide, nearly 72% of Americans are either overweight or have obesity, with over 42% of the population affected, which represents a historic high,<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, all types of citizens are affected by obesity; however, according the National Center for Health Statistics, obesity disproportionately affects lower-income individuals, people with less education, and minority communities,<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, obesity imposes significant human and economic costs, with the total economic burden estimated at \$1.72 trillion, or 9.3% of U.S. GDP,<sup>3</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, rural populations experience higher obesity rates than urban populations, with 34.2% of rural residents affected,<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, treatment options for obesity, including lifestyle modification, FDA-approved medications, and bariatric surgery, can offer improved outcomes for patients, and

**WHEREAS**, state and territories can establish obesity task forces or utilize existing structures to focus on addressing obesity, including additional training for current and

<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/obesity-overweight.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7484407/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7484407/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>3</sup> [https://milkeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/reports-pdf/Mi-Americas-Obesity-Crisis-WEB\\_2.pdf?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://milkeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/reports-pdf/Mi-Americas-Obesity-Crisis-WEB_2.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>4</sup> [https://archive.cdc.gov/www\\_cdc\\_gov/media/releases/2018/s0614-obesity-rates.html#:~:text=Key%20findings,the%20South%20and%20Northeast%20regions.](https://archive.cdc.gov/www_cdc_gov/media/releases/2018/s0614-obesity-rates.html#:~:text=Key%20findings,the%20South%20and%20Northeast%20regions.)

26 future healthcare professionals, efforts to eliminate stigmas, and increasing access to  
27 comprehensive care and treatment for individuals with obesity.

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors  
29 Association (NLGA) encourages states and territories to explore solutions for addressing  
30 obesity as a chronic health issue.

31 **ADOPTED**, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

32 **Co-Sponsors:** Colorado Lt. Governor Dianne Primavera (D), Vermont Lt. Governor John  
Rodgers (R), Tennessee Lt. Governor Randy McNally (R)

33 **Proposed for the docket by:** Novo Nordisk (NLGA Partner)