

Policy Actions (as of April 21st, 2015)

THE FIRST THREE BILLS ARE BEING PRIMARILY DRIVEN BY HLM

GLOBAL POLICY ON CHILDHOOD OBESITY: Advocate for Texas legislators to develop a statewide strategic plan to address hunger, nutrition, physical activity and obesity in children and families.

1. SB 1374 (similar to SB 1476) by Sen. Lucio (and Sen. Garcia), relating to requiring that certain strategic plans of certain state agencies include the goals of reducing the incidence of food insecurity, poor nutrition, and diet-related disease in this state.-Both bills are awaiting a hearing in Senate Health and Human Services. We are still hopeful that one of these bills gets a hearing in the next week or two.

P3. P4. & P5. Policy Actions: Increase middle school physical education (PE) requirements to include moderate to vigorous activity for 6 semesters, high school PE requirements to 1.5 semesters, and make 1 semester of health education required for graduation. Institute a Texas policy on recess that encourages age-appropriate outdoor playtime. Conduct a study and encourage the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to establish guidelines for outdoor features on public school campuses to maximize outdoor physical activity.

2. HB 2086 by Rep. Allen, relating to health and physical education requirements in public schools. _ Bill is still awaiting a hearing in House Education Committee.

L1. Policy Action: Develop guidelines to educate and incent administrators, school teachers, child care providers, and other staff to eat healthy and be physically fit as role models for children.

3. HB 2087 by Rep. Allen, relating to the development of healthy nutrition and physical activity guidelines for licensed child-care providers, public school teachers, and public school administrators. -Bill has been heard and is pending in the House Human Services.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS HLM IS SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:

E1. Policy Action: Support legislation and policies at the state level that incent the purchase of healthy foods with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars.

1. HB 1616 by Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, relating to the establishment of a pilot program for the purchase of produce at farmers markets under certain nutritional assistance programs. (This gives “Double Dollars”) – Bill has been heard and is pending in the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee.

E2. Policy Action: Advocate for the development and passage of a state law to create a grocery/food* store loan program to address the problem of food deserts. (*Not limited to grocery stores, may include local grocers, convenience stores, etc.).

2. HB 1485 by Reps. Rodriguez, Miles, Harless, C. Turner, Isaac, relating to the establishment of a Texas grocery access investment fund program. – Bill has been heard and passed by the House Economic and Small Business Committee, waiting to be posted to the House Calendar. The Texas Retailers Association testified against the bill, but we believe it still has good chance of getting to over to the Senate.

E3. Policy Action: Support development and adoption of local laws to promote breastfeeding in Harris County, including recognizing designated breastfeeding-friendly hospitals, legally protecting breastfeeding mothers from harassment in public and while at work, and ensuring mothers are guaranteed a Mothers’ Bill of Rights.

3. HB 786 by Reps. Walle, S. King, Hernandez, Martinez-Fisher, relating to the right of a public employee to express breast milk in the workplace. Bill was passed by the House on April 23rd. No known opposition.

E5. Policy Action: Encourage school districts and appropriate public programs to increase awareness and promotion of school food options for low-income students during the summer.

4. HB 1202 by Rep. Munoz, relating to the creation of the community nutrition program policy advisory council. – Bill has been heard and is pending in the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee. No known opposition.

L2. Policy Action: Support comprehensive “Community Health Literacy”

5. HB 3105 by Rep. Greg Bonnen, relating to the establishment of a multi-stakeholder taskforce on health literacy in Texas. – Bill has been heard and is pending in the House Public Health Committee. No known opposition.

Other bills to HLM priorities:

HB 1172 by Rep. Alvarado, relating to creating a program to recognize before-school and after-school programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity. – This bill is awaiting a hearing in the House Public Education Committee. No known opposition.

HB 1227 by Rep. Rodney Anderson, et al, relating to eliminating the requirement that a school district assess the physical fitness of students. – Bill was heard in House Public Education, where HLM testified in opposition of this bill. It was left pending by the committee and remains there.