

A Legislative Approach To Obesity Awareness

April 27, 2006



Legislative Bills 2006 Maryland General Assembly Session

- HB 1418 – diabetes screening, BMIs once in middle school and nutrition standards
- SB 457- diabetes screening, BMIs once in middle school and nutrition standards
- SB 436- Obesity Awareness Task Force
- SB 329 –BMIs in certain grades

Support and Concerns

- Data
- A “beginning”
- Stigma
- Report cards focusing on weight
- Unfunded mandate
- Comprehensiveness

Maryland Obesity Awareness and Prevention Blue Ribbon Panel

Blue Ribbon Panel vs. Task Force

- **Utilizes coalition's work**
- Actionable measures
- **Added school nurse, school health educator, professional from an eating disorder program, and representative of the child care community**
- School-based childhood obesity prevention nutrition/physical activity programs;

Maryland Obesity Awareness and Prevention Blue Ribbon Panel

- **Examination of the role BMI's**
- Increasing physical education
- Training programs for health care professionals
- Community-based projects that involve parents and caregivers

Local Initiatives

- Key is local school health councils
- Use of new USDA required ‘Wellness’ plans
- Buy in