A Legislative Approach To Obesity Awareness

April 27, 2006
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
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