



**Legislative Update
and Action Alert
June 4, 2010**

Please read and forward to your colleagues and networks!

In this Issue:

- **Obesity Policy**
- **Tobacco Policy**

**Fitness Testing in Schools (HB 1757/SB 1296)
Re-Scheduled in House Health Committee
for Tuesday, June 8**

Contact Committee Members to Urge Support!

Over the past two weeks, the House has dedicated its time to crafting its version of the budget, putting the consideration of other bills on hold. With the approval of the House budget late yesterday, it appears the House Health Committee will be back at work next week. On the calendar for consideration is HB 1757 - Physical Education and Activity in Schools/Fitness Testing, an Alliance priority. **The House Health Committee is scheduled to consider this bill on Tuesday, June 8 at noon in Room 544 of the Legislative Office Building.** Alliance members and partners are urged to attend the hearing to show support.

**Please Contact Members of the House Health Committee
(by clicking on the name below)
to Urge Support for Both Bills**

Members of the House Health Committee:

Chairman	Rep. England (D-Rutherford)
Chairman	Rep. Insko (D-Orange)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Earle (D- Mecklenburg)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Justus (R-Henderson)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Neumann (R-Gaston)
Vice Chairman	Rep. Rapp (D-Madison)
Members	Rep. Adams (D-Guilford)
	Rep. M. Alexander (D-Mecklenburg)
	Rep. Avila (R-Wake)
	Rep. Barnhart (R- Cabarrus)
	Rep. Brubaker (R-Randolph)

[Rep. Burris-Floyd](#) (R-Gaston)
[Rep. Cotham](#) (D-Mecklenburg)
[Rep. Current](#) (R-Gaston)
[Rep. Dollar](#) (R-Wake)
[Rep. Farmer-Butterfield](#) (D-Wilson)
[Rep. Glazier](#) (D-Cumberland)
[Rep. Goforth](#) (D-Bumcombe)
[Rep. Grady](#) (R-Onslow)
[Rep. Howard](#) (R-Davie)
[Rep. Hughes](#) (D-New Hanover)
[Rep. McComas](#) (R-New Hanover)
[Rep. McLawhorn](#) (D-Pitt)
[Rep. Parfitt](#) (D-Cumberland)
[Rep. Parmon](#) (D-Forsyth)
[Rep. Stewart](#) (D-Nash)
[Rep. Wainwright](#) (D-Craven)
[Rep. Weiss](#) (D-Wake)
[Rep. Wilkins](#) (D-Roxboro)

How to Contact ANY Legislator to Express Support for these Obesity Prevention Issues:

To email your House or Senate Member, go to the [General Assembly's Website](#), find the name of your Representative or Senator and double click on the email address.

To call your representative or senator, please call 919-733-4111 and ask for your Representative of Senator by name to be transferred.

If you are not sure of the name of your Representative or Senator, check the General Assembly's website at: <http://www.ncleg.net/GIS/RandR07/Home.html>

On this page, you may look up your representative or senator by district number, by County, or by Zip Code +4. (Use the Postal Service's [ZIP Code Look-Up Engine](#) to find your zip code +4).

Talking Points for 1757/SB 1296 – Physical Education and Activity in Schools/Fitness Testing

Click Here for a full set of talking points on the fitness testing issue.

Why is requiring statewide fitness testing so important?

- Results would allow for the provision of targeted support to students who are overweight or obese.
- Information would allow study of the impact of obesity on factors affecting dropout rates – absenteeism, reading levels, math testing, disciplinary problems, bullying, and so on.

- Fitness testing gives the physical education departments the ability to track student progress, providing accountability in the same way that other curricula (math, reading and writing) can track improvements in student outcomes.
- Statewide fitness testing provides an on-going critical database for local and state agencies to utilize as organizations across the state attempt to address the childhood obesity epidemic.

Active Children Thrive Academically and Socially

Physically active children are more likely to thrive academically and socially. Fitness testing is an integral part of a quality physical education program and can provide information to form an action plan that will help assist children in achieving goals for fitness that will incorporate safe and healthy activities into their lives. Studies have shown that normal weight children have higher scholastic achievement, less absenteeism, and higher physical fitness than their obese counterparts.

Why NOW is the right time to make this happen?

- North Carolina ranks 14th in the nation in number of overweight and obese children age 10 - 17. With accurate, individualized data, North Carolina's teachers, parents, health care providers and others can make targeted and specific changes to improve the health of our students.
- Statewide fitness testing K-8 can be done without cost to taxpayers until 2012 when private grant funds run out. Fitness testing is already taking place in school districts around the state thanks to the current support of the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation and early pilot funding from the Health and Wellness Trust Fund and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation. With support from the General Assembly and the State Board of Education, all students will have the ability to complete fitness testing, work to improve results, and will be able to continue assessments beyond 2012 and for years to come.
- Overweight adolescents are 70% more likely to grow up and enter NC's workforce as overweight and obese adults. An obese adult will have annual medical costs 37.4% higher than their healthy weight counterparts, representing an additional \$732 per obese person, per year. In addition, an overweight or obese adult will accrue \$250,000 in lost productivity over the course of his or her career. NC pays now or pays later for the health care of obese children; fitness testing is a step toward halting the obesity epidemic.

To view a copy of a bill as introduced, please click on the bill number. To send a thank-you email to a sponsor, please click on the member's name:

[HB 1757/SB 1296](#) - PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ACTIVITY IN SCHOOLS.

House Primary Sponsors: [Insko](#) (D-Orange); [Bell](#) (D-Sampson, Wayne); [Rapp](#) (D- Haywood, Madison, Yancey); [Yongue](#) (D-Hoke, Robeson, Scotland).

House Co-Sponsors: [M. Alexander](#) (D- Mecklenburg); [Brown](#); [Carney](#) (D- Mecklenburg); [England](#) (D-Rutherford); [Faison](#) (D-Orange); [Fisher](#) (D-Buncombe); [E. Floyd](#) (D-Cumberland); [Gill](#) (D-Wake); [Glazier](#) (D-Cumberland); [Harrison](#) (D-Guilford); [Hughes](#) (D-New Hanover); [Jackson](#) (D-Wake); [Lucas](#) (D-Cumberland); [McLawhorn](#) (D-Pitt); [Parfitt](#) (D-

Cumberland); [Pierce](#) (D-Hoke, Robeson, Scotland); [Ross](#) (D-Wake); [Tarleton](#) (D-Ashe, Watauga); [Wray](#) (D-North Hampton, Vance, Warren).

Senate Primary Sponsor: [Charlie S. Dannelly](#) (D-Mecklenburg)

Senate Co-Sponsors: [Don Davis](#) (D-Greene, Pitt, Wayne); [Jean Preston](#) (R-Carteret, Craven, Pamlico); [Michael P. Walters](#) (D- Hoke, Robeson).

Cigarette Stamp Bill Introduced in House

The Alliance continues to promote the cigarette stamp issue at the General Assembly, along with many other organizations working via the Fire-Safe Cigarettes Coalition. Two weeks ago [SB 1197](#) - REINSTATE CIGARETTE TAX STAMPS was introduced in the Senate by Senator Fletcher Hartsell (R-Cabarrus) and Senator Dan Clodfelter (D-Mecklenburg). Last week [HB 1979](#) - REINSTATE CIGARETTE TAX STAMPS was introduced in the House by Rep. Paul Luebke (D-Durham) and Rep. Verla Insko (D-Orange). We expect that one of these bills could begin moving in either chamber shortly.

Cigarette stamps are required to be attached to packages of cigarettes as evidence of payment of the cigarette tax (now 45 cents/pack in NC). In 1993, NC's stamp requirement was repealed and now only three states in the nation (North Carolina, South Carolina and North Dakota) do not require cigarette stamps. The lack of the cigarette stamp in NC has allowed NC's relatively inexpensive and low-taxed cigarettes to be bought in large quantities and sold in other states, particularly in northeastern states with higher cigarette taxes. In addition, NC's lack of a cigarette stamp is making it difficult, if not impossible, to enforce our state's new fire-safe cigarette law. Without a mechanism to track cigarettes coming into the state, it is impossible to ensure that the cigarettes coming into the state are actually fire-safe as required by law.

The Alliance supports reinstating NC's cigarette stamp to promote health, safety, crime prevention efforts and increased state revenue. By preventing contraband trafficking and other cigarette tax evasion, cigarette stamps not only fight crime and increase government revenues but also help to protect public health and reduce smoking by stopping illegal cigarette sales at below-market prices. In addition, the cigarette stamp will help ensure that fire-safe cigarettes are the ONLY cigarettes available in NC.

Please [Click Here](#) for talking points on the cigarette stamp issue.

What *MORE* can you do to promote obesity and tobacco use prevention policies before NC's legislative and executive branches?

Have your organization, its board members, staff and volunteers sign the Alliance's resolutions to demonstrate your support for making North Carolina's worksites and public places smoke-free. Access the resolutions by going to the Alliance's website at:

[Resolution Supporting the Establishment of Science-Based Nutrition Standards for all Food Offered in Schools](#)

[Resolution Supporting 100% Smoke-Free Worksites and Public Places](#)

[Resolution Supporting an Increase in the Cigarette Tax BY at Least \\$1](#)

See our website for fact sheets, talking points and other resources
promoting NCAH policy priorities.
www.ncallianceforhealth.org

**For additional information about the North Carolina Alliance for Health, please contact
Alliance Executive Director Lisa Familo at lisa.familo@ncallianceforhealth.org;
or Alliance Policy Director Pam Seamans at pamseamans@nc.rr.com.**

Call 919-463-8328
or e-mail ncalliance@heart.org for more information