WHEREAS, in 2011, the Trust for American’s Health ranked North Carolina as the state with the 11th highest childhood obesity rate and the 14th highest adult obesity rate; and

WHEREAS, 33.5% of NC children aged 10-17 are overweight or obese, compared to 31.6% nationally; and research shows that children who are overweight or obese have a greater likelihood of being overweight or obese as adults; and

WHEREAS, a continued increase in childhood obesity will cause the current generation of children to be the first generation in American history to have a shorter lifespan than their parents; and

WHEREAS, across all payers (i.e., Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance), medical spending is $1,429 higher per person per year for obese people than for people who are at a healthy weight; and

WHEREAS, balanced nutrition plays a critical role in achieving good health by helping to maintain a healthy body weight and prevent chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, children with better quality diets, including a variety of fruits and vegetables and low fat intake, were also found to perform better on school achievement tests; and

WHEREAS, studies show that children consume up to 47% of their total daily calories from meals and snacks at school including food from all sources, such as à la carte, vending machines, school stores and school lunches; and

WHEREAS, a student’s dietary habits are influenced by the food environment of their schools and studies show that limiting access to low-nutrient, energy-dense foods to children at school can lower daily caloric intake and assist in controlling their weight; and

WHEREAS, in addition to cafeterias, nearly all schools offer competitive foods including à la carte items, vending machines or school stores at which children have access to food. A recent national study found that 40% of students consumed one or more competitive foods on a typical school day; the most popular foods included cookies/cakes/brownies, chips, candy, juice drinks and carbonated sodas. In line with this trend, the most common competitive foods sold on NC school campuses are high in fat, calories and low in nutritional value; and

WHEREAS, the lunches and breakfasts provided as part of the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and National School Breakfast Program (NSBP) are currently required to meet federal nutrition standards. However, state nutrition standards are incomplete and weaker than current science-based nutrition standards that govern the sale of competitive foods and beverages sold in schools including, but not limited to, à la carte items, vending, schools stores, fundraisers and other venues available to students during the school day;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the undersigned believe that all children should have access to healthy foods that promote their health and learning while at school, and therefore endorses that ALL foods available in North Carolina schools be guided by a set of mandatory nutrition standards that are based on sound nutritional science.
I am signing as:
___ an individual:
Individual Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________

___ on behalf of my organization:
Signature of Authorized Representative: ___________________________ Date: __________
Printed Contact Name: ___________________________ Location: ___________________________
Organization Name: __________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________ Phone: _________________
(Home Personal Address OR Organization Business Address)
City: __________ State: ______ Zip Code: __________ E-mail: ___________________________

Mail Signed Resolutions to:
NC Alliance for Health; 3131 RDU Center, Suite 100, Morrisville, NC 27560
Telephone: 919-463-8329 / ncalliance@heart.org / www.ncallianceforhealth.org


