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To: Lt. Governor's OfficeLtGov@scstatehouse.gov
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Subject: Support NLGA's Obesity Policy Resolution

Lt. Gov. Kevin Lee Bryant,

As someone who has personally witnessed the impact that obesity has on the health of our citizens and our state's economy, I urge you to vote in favor of a critical policy resolution that supports treatment and prevention of obesity that will be considered during the upcoming 2018 Annual Meeting of the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA).

The resolution, which has been introduced by Lieutenant Governors Fairfax (D-VA), Gregg (R-IA), Nungesser (R-LA), Wyman (D-CT) and Zuckerman (D-VT) would help: reduce obesity stigma; establish statewide obesity councils and taskforces; support additional training for current and future healthcare professionals; and support access to obesity treatment options for state employees and in other publicly funded healthcare programs.

Passage of this resolution would build on policy statements that have been issued by a number of groups throughout the past few years. In 2013, the American Medical Association classified obesity as a disease and declared that patients must "have access to the full continuum of care of evidence-based obesity treatment modalities such as behavioral, pharmaceutical, psychosocial, nutritional, and surgical interventions." Two years later, the National Conference of Insurance Legislators adopted formal policy to support efforts to reduce the incidence of obesity and chronic disease by "encouraging state policymakers to increase access to obesity pharmacotherapy and bariatric surgery in state health exchange benchmark plans, Medicaid and other state health programs."

Please support the resolution supporting treatment and prevention of obesity so that the millions of Americans affected by obesity and overweight across our country can have better access to, and insurance coverage of, evidence-based obesity treatment services!

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