

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 11-14

INTRODUCED BY: Public Health Committee

SUBJECT: Water Tax Repeal

1 Whereas, one in three Maryland children is overweight or obese; and
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3 Whereas, more kids than ever are being diagnosed with adult-like diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular
4 disease, high cholesterol level, and hypertension; and
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6 Whereas, sugar-sweetened beverages are the single greatest contributor to the obesity epidemic; and
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8 Whereas, kids who drink sugar-sweetened beverages drinks daily are 3x times more likely to be overweight or
9 obese and 7x times more likely to be diagnosed with type 2 diabetes than their peers who don't drink sugary drinks;
10 and
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12 Whereas, the cost in lives, health, and resources to the state of Maryland from obesity and its related chronic
13 illnesses is staggering; and
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15 Whereas, obesity and its related chronic illnesses are the single largest preventable cause of death and disease for
16 both men and women; and
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18 Whereas, increasing physical activity has had a modest impact on reducing obesity and its related chronic illnesses;
19 and
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21 Whereas, as physicians, we have a duty to espouse the best possible preventive health measures for our patients and
22 the public, including encouraging consumption of water; and
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24 Whereas, Maryland is only one of four states to charge sales tax on bottled water equal to the sales tax on sugary
25 drinks, while not on other healthy beverages; and
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27 Whereas, research shows that encouraging consumption of healthy drinks like water will reduce obesity and chronic
28 illness; therefore be it
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30 Resolved, that MedChi work towards implementing and supporting measures that will increase consumption of
31 water in the state of Maryland.
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34 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 27, 2014.