

STATE OF FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 03-196

WHEREAS, Florida is experiencing an obesity epidemic among adults and youth;
and

WHEREAS, data from the 2001 Youth Risk Behavior Survey show that 14.2% of high school students are at risk for becoming overweight and an additional 10.4% are overweight, and according to the 2002 Florida Youth Tobacco Survey, 16.1% of middle school students are at risk for becoming overweight and 11.5% of middle school students are overweight; and

WHEREAS, data from the 2002 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System show that 57.4% of adults were overweight or obese, a 63% increase since 1986;
and

WHEREAS, physical inactivity and poor nutrition comprise the second leading actual cause of death; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, 26.4% of Florida adults were physically inactive and only 25.7% of Florida adults ate the daily recommended five servings of fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, among Florida high school students, only 20.3% ate five or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day during the previous seven days;
and

WHEREAS, fewer than 50% of Florida high school students attended physical education classes on one or more days during an average week; and

WHEREAS, overall, 65% of high school students watched two or more hours of television on an average school day, displacing physical activity and increasing caloric intake during viewing; and

WHEREAS, overweight and obesity lead to increased risk for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, some cancers, osteoarthritis, and other health conditions and chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, in Florida, as well as the United States, minority populations are

disproportionately affected by overweight and obesity and the resulting complications; and

WHEREAS, healthy eating and physical activity have been proven to reduce one's risk for developing preventable chronic conditions and improving overall physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, overweight and obesity are causing tremendous increases in national and state health care costs, including State Medicaid spending, and according to the Agency for Health Care Administration, cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes alone (diseases linked to overweight and obesity) exceeded \$38.6 billion in 2001; and

WHEREAS, promoting healthy lifestyles will support family stability since children are severely impacted by disease and death of family members; and

WHEREAS, it is of vital importance and in the best interest of the people of the State of Florida that the current needs of our youth are addressed in a comprehensive and meaningful manner to plan now for Florida's healthy economic future.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEB BUSH, Governor of the State of Florida, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, do hereby promulgate the following Executive Order, effective immediately:

Section 1.

A. There is hereby created the Governor's Task Force on the Obesity Epidemic (the "Task Force").

B. I hereby appoint Dr. Zachariah P. Zachariah as Chair of the Task Force. The Task Force will be comprised of business leaders, education and health care professionals, sports and fitness representatives, media representatives, community leaders and consumers.

C. The Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

(1) Dr. Zachariah P. Zachariah of Broward County, Physician, Chair

(2) Frank Brogan of Palm Beach County, President, Florida Atlantic University

(3) Dr. Jim Gills of Pinellas County, Physician, Florida Sports Foundation

(4) Carol Thompson of Duval County, Vice

President, Baptist Health

(5) Ann Bowden of Leon County,
Homemaker/Volunteer

(6) Deise Granado-Villar of Miami-Dade County,
Director of Preventive Medicine & Community Pediatrics, Miami
Children's
Hospital

(7) Monica K. Almas of Broward County, Aetna,
Inc.

(8) Frances Menchion of Jackson County, Youth
Minister, St. James AME

(9) Jasmin D. Shirley of Broward County, Vice
President of Health Systems Development & Ambulatory Services, North
Broward
Hospital District

(10) Thomas B. Pfankuch of Leon County, Vice
President of Editorial Services, Rowland Publishing, Inc.

(11) Lt. Michael J. Ferrantelli of Pasco County,
Pasco County Sheriff's Office

(12) James T. Bell of Pasco County, Founder,
International Fitness Professionals Association

(13) Sofia Solernou of Bay County, Legal
Assistant, Vincent Bruner & Associates

(14) Chris Dudley of Leon County, Consultant,
Southern Strategies Group

D. Task Force members shall receive no compensation, but shall be entitled to per diem and travel expenses while attending meetings of the Task Force to the extent allowed by Section 112.061, Florida Statutes. Per diem and travel expenses shall be paid in accordance with Chapter 112, Florida Statutes. The Task Force will be staffed and supported with all available resources of the Florida Department of Health. Invited guests and speakers shall also be entitled to per diem and travel expenses while participating in meetings of the Task Force to the extent allowed by Section 112.061, Florida Statutes.

E. The Task Force shall meet at the call of the chairperson. The Task

Force shall act by a vote of the majority of its members present, either in person or via communication technology. No member may grant a proxy for his or her vote to any other member or member designee, except with the prior approval of the chairperson. I will fill by appointment any vacancy that occurs on the Task Force.

Section 2.

A. The Task Force shall be advisory in nature and is created to:

1. Recommend ways to promote the recognition of overweight and obesity as a major public health problem in Florida that also has serious implications for Florida's economic prosperity;

2. Review data and other research to determine the number of Florida's children who are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight;

3. Identify the contributing factors to the increasing burden of overweight and obesity in Florida;

4. Recommend ways to help Floridians balance healthy eating with regular physical activity to achieve and maintain a healthy or healthier body weight;

5. Identify and research evidenced-based strategies to promote lifelong physical activity and lifelong healthful nutrition, and to assist those who are already overweight or obese to maintain healthy lifestyles;

6. Identify effective and culturally appropriate interventions to prevent and treat overweight and obesity;

7. Provide policy recommendations to improve healthful nutrition and physical activity for our youth, especially in areas where they congregate such as schools, after-school programs, and community and youth centers; and

8. Provide recommendations for parents, caregivers, health care providers, youth leaders and other youth-based programs to encourage and support healthy eating and increased physical activity to promote family strengthening and family stability.

Section 3.

To aid its study of the issues and the development of its recommendations, the Task Force may take public testimony from experts and stakeholders. In addition, the Task Force is encouraged to take whatever other steps it deems necessary to gain a full understanding of the educational, community, health and other issues involved with working toward a resolution to this epidemic.

Section 4.

The Task Force shall submit a report setting forth recommendations, including any recommendations for legislative action, to the Governor, the President of the Florida Senate and the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives by February 13, 2004.

Section 5.

All agencies within the authority of the Executive Office of the Governor are directed, and all other agencies are requested, to render full assistance and cooperation to the Task Force and the Department of Health in the execution of this order.

Section 6.

The Task Force shall continue in existence only until its objectives are achieved, but in any event no later than May 30, 2004, unless extended by further Executive Order.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed this 15th day of October, 2003.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE

b Bush