



**INSTITUTIONAL POSITION
EQUITABLE ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH OBESITY
MARCH 23, 2023**

WHEREAS, the prevalence of obesity in the United States continues to grow among children and adolescents aged 2 to 19 years old; and

WHEREAS, youth who have obesity are at higher risk than their normal-weight peers for developing a number of chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and fatty liver disease; and

WHEREAS, children and adolescents who have obesity may have poorer quality of life due to musculoskeletal pain and/or an increased prevalence of anxiety and depression; and

WHEREAS, the children of Illinois and Chicago are at equivalent risk of experiencing obesity as compared to children from across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the children within the Hispanic/Latino and Black/African American communities are at higher risk for having obesity than their white peers both within Illinois and in the United States; and

WHEREAS, current clinical practice guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend that treatment offered to youth who carry excess weight be customized in accordance with their age, degree of excess weight, and family and clinical care team plan; and

WHEREAS, some of these treatments may include lifestyle modification therapy, anti-obesity medications, and/or bariatric surgery.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED: that Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago ("Lurie Children's") engage in policy, advocacy, and research initiatives to advocate for the availability of and equitable access to evidence-based clinical care and treatment approaches for youth who have obesity; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED: that Lurie Children's offer treatment for children and adolescents with obesity in Illinois.

Supporting Literature:

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