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Childhood obesity bill: Fighting problem is necessary for our future

By **Other Voices**

December 13, 2009, 3:39AM

The editorial, "A weighty issue parents must face" (Dec. 4), rightly recognized the need for solutions to Ohio's childhood obesity epidemic. In our analysis of the 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey, "Obesity in Children and Families across Ohio," we found that more than one-third of Ohio's children are overweight or obese, and the data show that obesity is already taking a toll on the health of Ohio's children.

However, in stating that the Healthy Choices for Healthy Children legislation under consideration at the Ohio Statehouse should be amended to raise awareness among parents about childhood obesity, the editorial failed to take into account that the legislation already seeks to accomplish this goal.

The legislation creates an advisory board that will identify best practices and create a clearinghouse of resources for parents, schools, health care providers and others to use to ensure parents have the information they need to get their children on the path to good health. This legislation does not take the place of what parents are doing, but will augment it with support at school -- where children spend most of their day.

Furthermore, the proposed legislation includes several provisions to increase children's physical activity and access to healthy foods.

Leona Cuttler, M.D. *Cleveland*

Cuttler is director of The Center for Child Health and Policy and chief of Pediatric Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

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