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Childhood obesity bill: Public health campaign wouldn't be enough

By **Other Voices**

December 13, 2009, 3:36AM

Obesity is a large and rapidly growing community problem. It will take strong actions by employers, medical providers, restaurants and food markets to change behavior. Your Dec. 4 editorial said we should not "put schools at the forefront of pressuring overweight children by requiring them to measure students' body mass index." I think that is a small step that should be taken by schools to increase awareness of the problem by parents.

Your editorial approved the idea of a public health campaign instead of intrusive measurement. Public health cannot compete with the billions of ad dollars spent every year on pizza and fast food promotions. Changing behavior is not easy. Losing weight later in life is more difficult than keeping it off when you are young.

Schools should be encouraged to take this small step to measure student's health risk.

Stephen Musgrave *Painesville*

Musgrave is president of the Wellness Council of Northeast Ohio.

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