

House Bill 373 takes up 'a good cause'

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I am writing in response to *The Columbus Dispatch* Feb. 12 editorial, "A good cause," about first lady Michelle Obama taking on childhood obesity. Local legislator John Patrick Carney (D-Columbus) has introduced legislation to address precisely this problem. H.B. 373, the "Healthy Choices for Healthy Children" bill, sets nutrition standards for food served in schools and available in school vending machines. It also requires kids to engage in 30 minutes of rigorous physical activity in school every day.

All of the studies on this issue demonstrate that children who are active and eating healthy learn better, and they also are more likely to carry those healthy habits with them for the rest of their lives.

To complete the picture, the bill includes a measure to educate parents about what they can do at home to build on the steps taken in schools.

Rep. Carney spoke about this issue during his campaign, and now he is following through on his promise to address what he has called America's "No. 1 preventable health risk."

I encourage you to call your state representative and state senator to ask them to support Rep. Carney's proposed bill.

Steve Daley, Clintonville

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