

TO: All Members of the Ohio General Assembly

FROM: Senator Kevin Coughlin
Senator Eric H. Kearney
Representative John Patrick Carney
Representative Lynn Wachtmann

RE: *Healthy Choices for Healthy Children* Legislation – media clips

DATE: March 12, 2010

As sponsors of Senate Bill 210 and House Bill 373 – the *Healthy Choices for Healthy Children* legislation – we wanted to share with you the enclosed news articles, which include a sampling of national media coverage regarding the issue of childhood obesity as well as Ohio coverage of the legislation.

As you've no doubt noticed, we cannot turn on the TV, pick up a major news publication or listen to news radio without hearing about the issue of childhood obesity – from how it affects long-term health to its dramatic impact on the cost of health care. The widespread attention this epidemic is receiving is a strong indication of the need for the *Healthy Choices Healthy Children* legislation.

We have been working closely with interested parties to ensure that we accommodate the need for flexibility in implementation, while still maintaining the integrity of the legislation. We will soon be introducing substitute bill language that reflects the concerns raised by stakeholders. We ask that you review the substitute bills and consider supporting these efforts to address childhood obesity in a comprehensive, effective manner. For your review in advance, we have included a side-by-side comparison of the original legislation and substitute legislation with this memo.

We remain committed to the passage of this important bi-partisan, bi-cameral legislation. It will ensure Ohio becomes a leader in combating childhood obesity and will help our state have a healthier future.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you.