



RESOLUTION #20-05
IN SUPPORT OF A CA WELLNESS TRUST

WHEREAS, chronic diseases and injuries, most of which are preventable, accounted for 80% of deaths in California in 2010,

WHEREAS, we are in the midst of a large-scale epidemic of obesity and diabetes that shows little sign of slowing and may lead this generation of children to have shorter lives than their parents,

WHEREAS, more than half of California's adults are overweight and obese and therefore are at greater risk for chronic conditions including diabetes, heart disease, cancer, arthritis, stroke, and high blood pressure,

WHEREAS, this burden of preventable illness generates enormous costs for families, employers, and local and state government healthcare systems,

WHEREAS, the six leading chronic diseases alone generated treatment costs of \$705,271,576 in Santa Cruz County in 2010, and these continue to rise,

WHEREAS, California had 18,152 injury deaths with \$21 billion in lifetime costs (\$538 for every resident in the state) in 2014 alone.

WHEREAS, poor diet is now the leading risk factor for death in the United States, followed by tobacco, high blood pressure, obesity, and physical inactivity,

WHEREAS, whereas people who have access to healthy food and eat a healthy varied diet are at lower risk of obesity and chronic disease,

WHEREAS, people who live in highly walkable, safe, mixed-use communities with easy access to green space and public transit options are more physically active and less obese, contributing to greater overall health,

WHEREAS, this burden of illness is distributed unfairly. The place where you were born, live, your income, race, and ethnicity all play a role in determining how likely you are to become ill, be injured, or die too young,

WHEREAS, just \$10 per person for strategic investment in prevention would represent more than 1/1000th of our annual healthcare spending in California,

WHEREAS, as our population ages, medical care becomes more complex and costly, and we seek to assure health care coverage for Californians, the need to invest in preventing those illnesses that can be averted has never been more urgent,

WHEREAS, Oklahoma, Minnesota and Massachusetts have created wellness trusts or funds that provide sustained, dedicated funding to reduce leading causes of premature illness and death have demonstrated positive outcomes in reducing risk factors for disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Education supports the establishment of a California Wellness Trust, or other mechanism, to assure sustained, dedicated investment in preventing the leading causes of illness, injury, and premature death in California by addressing the root causes of these conditions in order to promote greater health equity and wellness efforts, and to make our healthcare dollars go further.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Education of Santa Cruz County on this **19th day of March, 2020** by the following vote:

AYES: Barr, Filicetti, Nichols, Roth, Sales, Sanchez, Van Allen

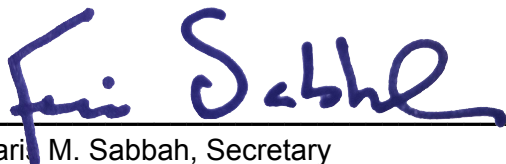
NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None



Sue Roth, President
Santa Cruz County Board of Education



Fari M. Sabbah, Secretary
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools