



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

John A. DeFrancisco

## Senate Passes Bill Creating the New York State Governor's Council on Physical Fitness

JOHN A. DEFRANCISCO May 7, 2012

| ISSUE: **HEALTH, CHILDREN, YOUTH**

Senator John A. DeFrancisco announced on May 7, 2012, that the New York State Senator passed his bil (S2856-A) that would establish a New York state Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Sports and Health.

"Obesity in children is on the rise. More than 30 percent of children ages six to 11 are overweight, and the numbers are even worse for adolescents," said Senator DeFrancisco.

"We need to be proactive about promoting healthy lifestyles to our young people, so that we can reverse the unhealthy trends that cost our nation \$117 billion annually in health care expenses," said Senator DeFrancisco.

The bill would provide for the establishment of an advisory council to the Governor, responsible for encouraging New Yorkers to live a healthier lifestyle. It would also establish the council's duties and funding. "Prevention is the best medicine. Teaching children to be more physically fit could help to prevent chronic health problems like hypertension, heart disease, cancer, asthma, type-2 diabetes, and many other illnesses," said Senator DeFrancisco.

"Healthier living also could help to improve quality of life and may, in the long run, result in health care savings," said Senator DeFrancisco.

The bill has been sent to the Assembly and is awaiting approval by that body.

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