



Tom Harkin, U.S. Senator



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR TOM HARKIN (D-IA) ON THE NATIONWIDE OBESITY RATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. ---- Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA), Chairman of the subcommittee which funds health care initiatives, issued the following statement on the new obesity study released by the Trust for America's Health which found that Iowa maintained its national obesity rank of 20, no state experienced a decrease. Harkin is the sponsor of the Healthy Lifestyles and Prevention (HeLP) America Act, comprehensive legislation to provide all sectors - child care centers, schools, workplaces, and communities - with the tools they need to reach the goal of making America a healthier place.

“Our schools are awash in sugary sodas and candy, we are shortening recess and PE, and then we are shocked that we have an obesity epidemic. As Pogo says, we have met the enemy and he is us. We need smarter public policies and programs to get our children off to strong start with good nutrition and plenty of physical activity.”

“America's fight against obesity gets a flunking grade, and that means we are graduating to a future of diabetes, heart disease, and premature death. Our communities need to mobilize to fight this epidemic – and everyone needs to be part of the solution, including our schools, government, the food and advertising industries, and corporate America.”

Harkin, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee plans on using the upcoming farm bill as an opportunity to promote healthy living by investing in the fresh fruit and vegetable program, increasing access to locally grown foods and encouraging child nutrition.

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SENATOR HARKIN'S OFFICES

Des Moines

210 Walnut Street
Room 733, Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515)284-4574 Phone
(515)284-4937 Fax

Davenport

1606 Brady Street
Suite 323
Davenport, IA 52803
(563)322-1338 Phone
(563)322-0417 Fax

Cedar Rapids

150 First Avenue, NE
Suite 370
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
(319)365-4504 Phone
(319)365-4683 Fax

Dubuque

350 W. 6th Street
315 Federal Building
Dubuque, IA 52001
(563)582-2130 Phone
(563)582-2342 Fax

Sioux City

320 6th Street
110 Federal Building
Sioux City, IA 51101
(712)252-1550 Phone
(712)252-1638 Fax

Washington Office

731 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
(202)224-3254 Phone
(202)224-9369 Fax
(202-224-4633 TDD