

**As Reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid
Committee**

133rd General Assembly

Regular Session

2019-2020

S. C. R. No. 7

Senators Craig, Antonio

Cosponsors: Senators Thomas, Maharath, Fedor, Sykes, Hackett, Yuko

A C O N C U R R E N T R E S O L U T I O N

To urge support of the "Screen at 23" campaign regarding 1
the screening of Asian Americans for type 2 diabetes. 2

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Approximately 103,800 Asian Americans in Ohio are 3
expected to have diabetes or prediabetes by 2025, according to 4
the Institute for Alternative Futures; and 5

WHEREAS, The National Center for Health Statistics in the 6
United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 7
states that diabetes is the fifth leading cause of death among 8
Asian Americans; and 9

WHEREAS, Results from the United States National Interview 10
Survey, 1997 - 2008, show that Asian Americans are over 30% more 11
likely to have diabetes than Caucasian Americans; and 12

WHEREAS, According to researchers at the Joslin Diabetes 13
Center at Harvard University, Asian Americans are also at a 14
greater risk of developing prediabetes, type 2 diabetes, and 15
associated risks (such as cardiovascular disease) at a lower 16
body mass index (BMI) than Caucasians, Hispanics, African- 17
Americans, and Native Americans; and 18

WHEREAS, The Joslin researchers have found that Asian Americans face a health care disparity in type 2 diabetes detection and diagnosis, due in part to general guidelines calling for screening at a BMI of 25 kg/m², which misses 36% of type 2 diabetes diagnoses in Asian Americans, or nearly 6,500 Ohioans. These guidelines also cause underestimates of prediabetes prevalence among Asian Americans and the increased risk of both prediabetes and type 2 diabetes among Asian Americans younger than 45 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The CDC reports that almost 70% of people with diabetes over age 65 will die of some type of heart disease, and about one in six will die of stroke. People with diabetes can experience very high blood-glucose levels, a condition that causes damage to nerves and blood vessels. This, in turn, puts them at risk for developing end stage renal disease and kidney failure, blindness, and lower limb loss; and

WHEREAS, People with diabetes have medical expenses approximately 2.3 times higher than those without diabetes. According to the American Diabetes Association, total direct medical expenses for diagnosed diabetes in Ohio were estimated at \$9 billion in 2017. In addition, another \$3.3 billion was spent on indirect costs from lost productivity due to diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Early detection and treatment can mitigate diabetes-related complications, risks, and costs; and

WHEREAS, Interventions focused on nutrition, physical activity, and healthy weight loss have been shown to reverse prediabetes, improve glucose function in persons with type 2 diabetes, and reduce their need for multiple medications; and

WHEREAS, Screening Asian American patients for type 2 diabetes at a BMI of 23 kg/m² instead of 25 kg/m² would detect

over 4,000 cases of this disease, and many thousands more of
prediabetes cases in Ohio, and would lead to more screenings of
Asian Americans younger than 45 who have a BMI of 23 or more and
are at risk for type 2 diabetes. Such efforts are likely to lead
to the initiation of treatment or early interventions to reduce
negative comorbidities such as heart disease, kidney disease,
and limb amputation; and

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health found that more
than half of Asian Americans with type 2 diabetes are
undiagnosed, greatly increasing their overall health risk; and

WHEREAS, Recent analysis of cross-sectional national data
show that Asian Americans are the least likely ethnic group to
receive recommended diabetes screening, with a 34% lower rate of
diabetes screening than Caucasians; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization recommends screening
Asian patients for type 2 diabetes at a lower BMI than non-
Hispanic whites, and the 2015 guidelines of the American
Diabetes Association recommend that Asian Americans be tested
for type 2 diabetes at a BMI of 23 kg/m²; and

WHEREAS, The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific
Islander Diabetes Coalition has coordinated the "Screen at 23"
campaign with support from over 40 national and regional health
organizations; and

WHEREAS, The State of Ohio has the opportunity to join
California, Hawaii, Washington, Illinois, and Massachusetts to
become the sixth state to formally recognize and recommend the
screening of adult Asian Americans for type 2 diabetes at a BMI
of 23 kg/m², enabling thousands to receive the early care and
treatment needed to live healthier, happier lives; now therefore
be it

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General

Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, 81
endorse and support the Screen at 23 campaign's efforts to 82
increase awareness of diabetes among Asian Americans, including 83
the use of appropriate screening measures for Asian American 84
patients, and to eliminate disparities; and be it further 85

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 133rd General 86
Assembly of the State of Ohio, recommend that the Ohio 87
Department of Health actively encourage, through existing 88
communication protocols and internal mechanisms, all public and 89
private health care providers and facilities to participate in 90
the Screen at 23 campaign efforts; and be it further 91

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 92
authenticated copies of this resolution to the Governor, the 93
Director of Health, and the news media of Ohio. 94