

WHEREAS, September 2014 is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, during the past four decades, obesity rates have soared among all age groups in the U.S., increasing more than fourfold among children ages 6 to 11; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 National Survey of Children's Health found that 23.1 percent of Colorado children ages 10-17 are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, significant disparities exist among the obesity rates of children based on ethnicity and economic status; and

WHEREAS, the financial implications of childhood obesity poses a financial threat to our Colorado economy and health care system, costing the state more than \$1.6 billion in 2009 to treat diseases and conditions related to obesity; and

WHEREAS, children who are overweight or obese are five times more likely than their normal-weight peers to be overweight or obese as adults and as a result face high risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and some forms of cancer; and

WHEREAS participating in physical activity is important for children and teens as it can have beneficial effects not only on body weight, but also on blood pressure and bone strength; and

WHEREAS, proper nutrition is important for children before birth and through their lifespan as nutrition has beneficial effects for health and body weight, and is important in the prevention of chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, public, community-based, and private sector organizations and individuals throughout Colorado are working to decrease childhood obesity rates in the state through a range of efforts through education, policy solutions, healthier food options and greater opportunities for physical activity;

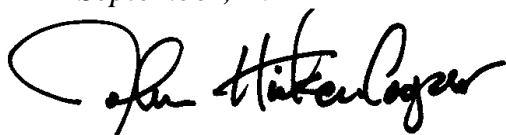
Therefore, I, John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, do hereby proclaim September, 2014,

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD OBESITY AWARENESS MONTH

in the State of Colorado



*GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado, this first day of
September, 2014*


John W. Hickenlooper
Governor