

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

**Resolution 09.2024-14
(A-25)**

Introduced by: Howard Axe, MD, ISMS Member

Subject: Sugar Sweetened Beverage Tax

Referred to: Governmental Affairs Council

1 Whereas, the prevalence of youth overweight or obesity status remains high, with
2 16.1% overweight and 19.3% obesity in 2017 and 2018, which is known to increase
3 their risk of current and future chronic diseases; and
4

5 Whereas, it is clear that consumption of sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) is
6 positively associated with obesity; and
7

8 Whereas, systematic reviews of SSB policies to reduce the consumption among
9 youth found mixed results but a trend for weight reduction; and
10

11 Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics, in 2019, recommended fiscal
12 policies like SSB excise taxes to reduce SSB consumption; and
13

14 Whereas, Berkeley, CA, was the first city to levy an SSB excise tax in 2015, and
15 currently a total of seven cities have implemented similar excise taxes (usually \$0.01
16 per ounce excise tax to SSB distributors which were passed on to consumers, and SSB
17 purchases and consumption declined in these cities; and
18

19 Whereas, a study of the Philadelphia, PA, SSB tax found reduced tooth decay in
20 adults and children enrolled in Medicaid; and
21

22 Whereas, a recent cohort study, reported in JAMA from July 31, 2024, involving
23 44,771 youth living in four California cities with SSB excise taxes, showed significant
24 reductions in mean age-specific and sex-specific BMI percentiles after SSB tax
25 implementation compared with mean changes in 345,428 youth living in control cities;
26 and

27 Whereas, Chicago tried to implement an SSB excise tax which was promoted to
28 raise money for the city instead of explicitly requiring that all revenues be used to fund
29 public health and equity programs, and was subsequently repealed; therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society seek to introduce state
31 legislation to implement a sugar sweetened beverage (SSB) excise tax state-wide, to
32 reduce the incidence of youth overweight and obesity, and that all the revenue from such
33 a tax be required to be used for the purpose of improving the health of Illinois youth and
34 all Illinois residents; and be it further

35

36 RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Medical Society reach out to potential
37 interested stakeholders such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, to seek support for
38 a sugar sweetened beverage excise tax.

Fiscal Note:

n/a

Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:

ISMS supports the State of Illinois modifying the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to eliminate sugar-sweetened beverages and consumption of high-caloric-density foods, to implement dietary education and to incentivize the increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. (HOD 2012; Last BOT Review 2014)

House of Delegates adopted Res. 45 (A-94) which directed that: (1) the Society position be that primary and secondary schools should replace foods in vending machines and snack bars which are of low nutritional value and are high in fat, salt, and/or sugar with healthier food choices which contribute to the nutritional needs of the students. (HOD 1994)

It is the policy of ISMS that primary and secondary schools should replace foods in vending machines and snack bars which are of low nutritional value and are high in fat, salt, and/or sugar with healthier food choices which contribute to the nutritional needs of the students. (HOD 1994; Revised 2002; Last BOT Review 2014)

House of Delegates adopted Resolution 30 (A-12) as amended, which directed that ISMS support the State of Illinois modifying the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to eliminate sugar-sweetened beverages, reduce consumption of high-caloric-density foods, implement dietary education and incentivize the increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. (HOD 2012)

Board of Trustees approved submitting the following resolution to the 2013 AMA House of Delegates: RESOLVED, that the AMA support modifying federal guidelines for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to eliminate sugar-sweetened beverages and consumption of high-density caloric foods; and be it further RESOLVED, that the AMA work actively to modify federal guidelines for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, so that they implement dietary education and incentivize increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. (BOT 2013-FEB)