



NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
OF
THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

Junior Leagues of New York State:

Junior League of Binghamton
31 Front Street - Binghamton 13905

Junior League of Bronxville
P.O. Box 430 - Bronxville 10708

Junior League of Brooklyn
55 Pierrepont Street - Brooklyn 11201

Junior League of Buffalo
45 Elmwood Avenue - Buffalo 14201

Junior League of Central Westchester
1039 Post Road - Scarsdale 10583

Junior League of Elmira-Corning
P.O. Box 3150 - Elmira 14905

Junior League of Kingston
P.O. Box 1214 - Kingston 12402

Junior League of Long Island
1395 Old Northern Blvd - Roslyn 11576

Junior League of the City of New York
130 East 80th Street - New York 10021

Junior League of Northern Westchester
222 East Main Street - Mt. Kisco 10549

Junior League of Orange County
P.O. Box 515 - Middletown 10940

Junior League of Pelham
901 Pelhamdale Avenue - Pelham Manor 10803

Junior League of Poughkeepsie
794 Main Street - Poughkeepsie 12603

Junior League of Rochester
110 Linden Oaks, Suite A - Rochester 14625

Junior League of Schenectady
P.O. Box 857 - Schenectady 12301

Junior League of Syracuse
930 James Street - Syracuse 13203

Junior League of Troy
P.O. Box 1161 - Troy 12180

Junior League of Westchester on Hudson
35 South Broadway - Tarrytown 10591

Junior League of Westchester on Sound
149 Larchmont Avenue - Larchmont 10538

For more information, contact the
Junior League nearest you.

STOCK SCHOOL VENDING MACHINES WITH FOOD AND BEVERAGES THAT IMPROVE STUDENT WELL-BEING

Bill: A.05882/S.4940

Sponsors: Assemblywoman Galef, Senator Rath

NYS PAC Position: SUPPORT

The New York State Public Affairs Committee (NYSPAC) of the Junior League supports the enactment of A.05882/S.4940, prohibiting sales of food and beverages of minimal nutritional value in vending machines on the ground or property of schools during school hours. NYSPAC urges members of the New York State Senate and Assembly to support the passage of this important legislation.

Within the last thirty years, obesity has tripled for New York's children and adolescents. Obesity in children physically limits their activities, and is linked to asthma, hypertension, orthopedic problems, psychological effects, sleep apnea and type-II diabetes. Overweight and obese children are 17% more likely to be overweight and obese as adults. This is an expensive problem; such illnesses cost the United States an estimated \$117 billion and New York State more than \$6 billion each year.

Given this background, it is contrary to public policy to allow vending machines stocked with food of poor nutritional quality on school grounds. While research shows that healthy food contributes to cognitive development and academic success, these machines currently offer candy, high-fat snacks and sugary beverages that provide only excess calories. Vending machines stocked with healthy offerings would send children the message that good nutrition is important, but selling low-nutrition foods in those machines defeats the goals of nutrition education in both the school and home.

Vending machines contribute to childhood obesity. The American Obesity Association outlines environment and eating rituals as two of the major causes of excess weight in children. The presence of badly stocked vending machines on school grounds plays heavily into the environmental component, creating a setting that encourages children to eat when not hungry or engaged in another activity (which can become habitual in and out of school). It may also create long-term dependence on junk food.

Removing junk food from vending machines would not necessitate a drop-off in school revenue. According to a 2004 study by the Center for Science in the Public Interest, schools that remove minimally nutritional food from vending machines show no fiscal effect. In fact, many of the 14 schools studied were able to increase revenue through tactics like conducting student taste tests of the healthier options before restocking the vending machines, and allowing bottled water in the classroom when the schools did not previously allow children to drink beverages during class.

On behalf of over 7,000 women represented by the 19 Junior Leagues of New York, we urge the New York Assembly and Senate to support legislation enacting A.05882/S.4940, legislation to prohibit the sale of food and beverages of minimally nutritional value in school vending machines.

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