



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 1 December 2021

SUBJECT: Public Chapter 503, Acts of 2021 (Childhood Obesity)—Panel

Public Chapter 503, Acts of 2021, directed TACIR “to perform a comprehensive evaluation on the socioeconomic impact childhood obesity has in Tennessee and its short and long-term effects.” At our September meeting, the Commission heard from Dr. Shari Barkin, the Director of Pediatric Obesity Research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, who presented information on Tennessee’s low national ranking on childhood obesity, the consequences of high levels of childhood obesity on the well-being of Tennessee residents, and her own research into the possibilities of effective interventions at different stages of childhood development.

Today the Commission will hear from a panel of subject matter experts who will discuss the societal costs of childhood obesity and the challenges of implementing and evaluating public health policies that seek to address childhood obesity, given the complexity of the problem and the many different factors involved. The panel will also discuss efforts at the Tennessee Departments of Health and Education to combat childhood obesity and the collaboration and coordination on this issue between state agencies, departments, and universities.

- Dr. Jacqueline Yenerall, Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ARE), University of Tennessee
- Leslie Meehan, Director, Office of Primary Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health
- Lori Paisley, Senior Director, District Operations, Tennessee Department of Education