

FORWARD DuPage Advocacy Policy

Whereas, FORWARD DuPage (FORWARD) is dedicated to reducing obesity by advocating on behalf of all DuPage residents for effective and sustainable strategies to improve policy, systems, and built environments; and

Whereas, health-focused policy, systems, and built environments are critical to sustaining healthy people and communities within the greater goal of obesity prevention and treatment, including the treatment of obesity-related chronic diseases; and

Whereas, from time-to-time, policy, systemic, and environmental changes are needed to advance and/or protect communities' access to critical needs that reduce and prevent obesity, including healthy nutrition, adequate sleep, stress reduction, access to physical education, and adequate physical activity.

Therefore, FORWARD has established the following Policy to better support legislative and regulatory action:

FORWARD will:

- Take a position (including sign on letters, position statements, witness slips, working with sponsors and other affected organizations) on health policies and legislative issues impacting access to healthy nutrition, sleep, stress, physical education, physical activity (including the built environment) as they relate to obesity prevention and treatment, healthy lifestyles and healthy immune systems.
- Serve as a clearinghouse to inform the Coalition on potential legislation and regulatory action affecting health-related policies and request support/action. (see FORWARD DuPage Coalition Advocacy Policy)

Parameters:

- Legislative and Regulatory Action Updates will be approved by $\frac{2}{3}$ of the FORWARD Executive Committee and shared with the entire Board.
- The scope of information will be limited to issues impacting FORWARD's mission such as: nutrition/physical activity/P.E./built environment/data surveillance/healthy communities.
- Legislation and regulatory action information will be mined from trusted advisors/sources at the regional, state and national levels such as: Illinois Alliance to Prevent Obesity (IAPO), Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC), YMCA of the USA, American Heart Association (AHA), Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK), Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium (NIPHC), and Trust for America's Health, etc.
- This policy will be revisited on a regular basis to adapt to the organization and changing environment.

1