

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5136, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. BISHOP OF GEORGIA**

Page 284, after line 22, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 727. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE THREAT OF OBE-**
2 **SITY TO THE ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Obesity in the United States has reached
5 crisis proportions. According to the Centers for Dis-
6 ease Control and Prevention, more than a third of
7 all American adults are now overweight. Of even
8 greater concern, the percentage of children and ado-
9 lescents who are overweight leaped to 16 percent in
10 2006, a percentage which has more than doubled
11 since 1980.

12 (2) During the past decade, the number of
13 states with 40 percent of young adults considered by
14 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to
15 be overweight or obese has risen from one state to
16 39. In three states—Kentucky, Alabama, and Mis-
17 sissippi—more than half of young adults are over-
18 weight.

19 (3) Overweight adolescents are likely to become
20 overweight adults, at risk of developing obesity-re-

1 lated, life-threatening diseases such as cancer, type
2 diabetes, stroke, heart disease, arthritis, and
3 breathing problems. They will join an adult popu-
4 lation struggling with a staggering 61 percent over-
5 weight rate. Not only will the Nation's children face
6 life-threatening diseases at younger ages, they will
7 face academic challenges due to poor health behav-
8 iors—resulting in even greater risk to their future
9 health and earning and the Nation's economic
10 growth and worldwide competition.

11 (4) The obesity epidemic is also affecting the
12 preparedness of the United States. The Army's Ac-
13 cessions Command, which carries the responsibility
14 for recruiting and the initial training of new Army
15 recruits, estimates that over 27 percent of all Ameri-
16 cans 17 to 24 years of age—over nine million young
17 men and women—are too heavy to join the military
18 if they want to do so.

19 (5) According to the April 2010 report, "Too
20 Fat to Fight", more than 100 retired generals and
21 admirals wrote that, "[o]besity rates among children
22 and young adults have increased so dramatically
23 that they threaten not only the overall health of
24 America but the future strength of our military."

1 (6) The number of recruits actually turned
2 away after taking their physicals has risen dramati-
3 cally in the last decade. Between 1995 and 2008,
4 the military had 140,000 individuals who showed up
5 at the centers for processing but failed their en-
6 trance physicals because they were too heavy.

7 (7) Being overweight is now by far the leading
8 medical reason for rejection, and between 1995 and
9 2008, the proportion of potential recruits who failed
10 their physicals each year because they were over-
11 weight rose nearly 70 percent.

12 (8) Every year, the military discharges more
13 than 1,200 first-term enlistees before their contracts
14 are up because of weight problems; the military
15 must then recruit and train their replacements at a
16 cost of \$50,000 for each man or woman, thus spend-
17 ing more than \$60 million a year.

18 (9) Although estimates of the current costs of
19 obesity vary, the costs associated with obesity-related
20 heart disease, diabetes, cancer and other health
21 problems are clearly increasing. The American Pub-
22 lic Health Association projects, for example, that
23 “left unchecked, obesity will add nearly \$344 billion
24 to the nations annual health care costs by 2018 and

1 account for more than 21 percent of health care
2 spending.”.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) obesity among children and young adults
6 threatens the future strength of the Armed Forces;
7 and

8 (2) the President and the Secretary of Defense
9 should take action to address such threat.

