Reviewer's report

Title: Obesity prevention in child care: A review of U.S. state regulations

Version: 1 Date: 9 April 2008

Reviewer: Barbara Dennison

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Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)
- The article might be enhanced by developing a US map that would summarize the findings, e.g., included a coding scheme that would indicate the number of key regulations in place in each state.
- Page 5, lin2, would suggest saying “children, aged 2 through 5 years…”
- Page 5, line 10—delete “more easily”; genetic factors are not modifiable.
- Page 6, last line. Might want to add “physical activity and TV viewing” after “nutrition.”
- Page 8, line 17, might want to add “provision of breast milk” after breastfeeding.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
- Should discuss how the “key items” were selected. And why some were not included. For example, fruits and vegetables are not included.
- In multiple places, such as, for example the abstract, the authors state that they are describing “state regulations related to childhood obesity.” They are actually describing state regulations related to nutrition, physical activity and/or TV or screen time that may contribute to the prevention of childhood obesity. This should be more clearly stated.

Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)—
None

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests