

Obesity, Individual Responsibility, and Public Policy

Tuesday, June 10, 2003, 11:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wohlstetter Conference Center, Twelfth Floor, AEI

On June 10, AEI will host a conference on obesity, individual responsibility, and public policy. The Centers for Disease Control reports that “In the United States, obesity has risen at an epidemic rate during the past twenty years.” By some calculations, being overweight is as deadly as smoking. Experts will examine this claim and its implications for public policy. Is controlling obesity a matter of government regulation—through taxes or public disclosure laws—or is it a matter of willpower and choice? Does the tort system dampen individual responsibility and threaten the existence of companies whose products may be labeled as fattening? This conference will examine the epidemiology of obesity, the reasons that Americans are overweight, and the difficulties with legal and legislative remedies.

10:45 a.m. Registration

11:00 Opening Speaker: RICHARD A. EPSTEIN, University of Chicago

11:30 **Panel I: Epidemiology and Implications of Obesity**

Panelists: FRANK HU, Harvard School of Public Health
GLENN GAESSER, University of Virginia and author of *Big Fat Lies*

Moderator: JAMES K. GLASSMAN, AEI

12:30 p.m. Luncheon Speaker: RICHARD H. CARMONA, U.S. surgeon general

1:30 **Panel II: Why Are We Obese?**

Panelists: RUTH KAVA, American Council of Science and Health
TOMAS PHILIPSON, Food and Drug Administration and University of Chicago
SALLY SATEL, AEI
JOHN E. CALFEE, AEI

2:45 Break

3:00 **Panel III: Remedies**

Panelists: MICHAEL S. GREVE, AEI
KELLY BROWNELL, Yale University
GREG CRITSER, author of *Fatland*
RICK BERMAN, Consumer Freedom

4:30 Adjournment

I will attend the obesity conference on Tuesday, June 10.

Name: _____
Title: _____
Affiliation: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Fax: _____
E-mail: _____

Please check if this is a new address.

You may register online at www.aei.org/events, or fax this form to 202.862.7171, or mail this form to: Conferences, American Enterprise Institute, 1150 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

For more information, please contact Erin Conroy at 202.828.6024 or Sharon Utz at 202.862.5933. For media inquiries, please contact Veronique Rodman at 202.862.4871 or vrodman@aei.org.