

## Girl Scouts Applaud Healthy Living Bills Co-Sponsored by Rothman

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Girl Scouts Leader from Teaneck Visits Congressman Rothman, Lobbies for Healthy Living Legislation

(Washington, DC)—On Wednesday, June 13th, Congressman Steve Rothman (D-NJ) met with Rosa Bland, President of the Girl Scouts Council of Bergen County, in his Washington, DC office. Bland, a Teaneck resident, advocates on behalf of over 13,000 girl scouts in Bergen County.

Bland said her goal in coming to DC this year was to raise awareness about the importance of two bills that Rep. Rothman has co-sponsored—the IMPACT Act and the PLAY Every Day Act (HR 2045). Both bills create federal grants to encourage healthy living among young women.

Specifically, the Improved Nutrition and Physical Activity (IMPACT) Act would fund federal grants to train health professionals to identify, treat, and prevent obesity and eating disorders. It would also provide grants for communities to promote healthy eating behaviors and physical activities for young people. The PLAY Every Day Act focuses on helping children, families and communities achieve the national recommendation of 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2000 that only 8% of elementary schools, 6.4% of middle and junior high schools, and 5.8% of senior high schools offer daily physical education or its equivalent for the entire school year. The result of so little activity can be chronic illnesses, such as juvenile diabetes, and heart disease.

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