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RISA LAVIZZO-MOUREY, MD, MBA

REVERSING CHILDHOOD OBESITY:
HELPING ALL CHILDREN LEAD HEALTHIER LIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2012
4:00 P.M.
208 LIGHT HALL



VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

REVERSING CHILDHOOD OBESITY:
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Childhood obesity threatens the health of our young people and their future potential. Today, approximately 23 million children and adolescents in the United States—nearly one in three young people—are either obese or overweight, putting them at higher risk for serious, even life-threatening health problems. If we don't reverse the childhood obesity epidemic, the current generation of young people could be the first in U.S. history to live sicker and die younger than their parents' generation. The childhood obesity epidemic is particularly severe in communities of color. African-American, Latino, American Indian and Asian/Pacific Islander children, and children living in lower-income areas, are at the greatest risk, exacerbating health inequities and pervasive health disparities. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey discusses the causes of the obesity epidemic and describes the strategies developed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to reverse the childhood obesity epidemic by 2015.



RISA LAVIZZO-MOUREY, MD, MBA

**PRESIDENT AND CEO
ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION**

MEMBER, INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey, President and CEO of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is a national leader in transforming America's health systems so people live healthier lives and receive the health care they need.

Under Lavizzo-Mourey's leadership, the Foundation has restructured its strategic investments to target a set of high-impact priorities, among them:

- Improving the quality and safety of patient care.
- Strengthening state and local public health systems.
- Halting the rise in childhood obesity by 2015.
- Covering the uninsured.

Lavizzo-Mourey joined RWJF in 2001 as senior vice president and director of the health care group. Previously, at the University of Pennsylvania, she was the Sylvan Eisman Professor of medicine and health care systems and director of Penn's Institute on Aging. In Washington, D.C., she was deputy administrator of what is now the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality.

Lavizzo-Mourey earned her medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston; and was trained in geriatrics at Penn.
