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HOUSE MEMORIAL 50

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

INTRODUCED BY

Jimmie C. Hall

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2014 "SCHOOL NUTRITION DAY" IN THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the  
national school lunch program and school breakfast program have  
provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals to  
schoolchildren throughout New Mexico for more than sixty years;  
and

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs serve healthy meals,  
free or at low cost, to students in New Mexico schools; and

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs not only feed hungry  
children and support family well-being, they also act as  
"economic stabilizers" during economic downturns; and

WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of their  
daily calories at school, and for many children, food served at

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1 school may be the only nutritious food they regularly eat; and

2 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs play an important role  
3 in helping to ensure that every student in New Mexico starts  
4 school ready to learn, since studies show that a well-fed and  
5 well-nourished child is a more eager and attentive student; and

6 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs have demonstrated a  
7 commitment in New Mexico to promote children's health,  
8 well-being and educational excellence as primary goals for  
9 student success; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico has ranked first nationally in  
11 students participating in school breakfast programs in five of  
12 the last six years and has been among the top ten states in  
13 numbers of students participating in school breakfast programs  
14 in the last ten years; and

15 WHEREAS, over three hundred forty-five thousand one  
16 hundred one students across New Mexico are eligible to  
17 participate in school meal programs; and

18 WHEREAS, more than fifty farmers currently sell fruits and  
19 vegetables grown in New Mexico to sixty school districts,  
20 serving one hundred forty-six thousand eight hundred forty-  
21 eight schoolchildren, a measure that contributes to a healthy  
22 diet and mitigates childhood obesity; and

23 WHEREAS, thirty-two percent of New Mexican children are  
24 overweight or obese, and experts project that a healthier  
25 population could save the state more than three hundred twenty-

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1 four million dollars (\$324,000,000) annually in obesity-related  
2 health care expenses and an additional one billion two hundred  
3 million dollars (\$1,200,000,000) annually in diabetes-related  
4 health care expenses;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
6 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state  
7 recognize that funding for school nutrition programs to promote  
8 healthier lifestyles and academic achievement is a wise  
9 investment in the health of its people and its future work  
10 force; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Monday, February 3, 2014, be  
12 declared "School Nutrition Day" in the house of  
13 representatives.