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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 84
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY
Ben Lujan

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING A REPORT FROM THE TASK FORCE TO END HUNGER IN NEW MEXICO ON TANGIBLE STEPS THAT STATE AGENCIES, WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, CAN TAKE TO ELIMINATE FOOD INSECURITY IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest rate of food insecurity in the nation, with fourteen percent of its people having limited or uncertain access to enough food; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks third in the nation in terms of percentage of population unable to afford enough food, with an estimated five percent of its people facing this plight; and

WHEREAS, the governor of New Mexico held a hunger summit on October 16 and 17, 2003 in order to begin to address food insecurity and related issues of food access, distribution and sufficiency within the state; and

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1 WHEREAS, the governor's summit drew upon the knowledge and
2 experience of many New Mexicans, state agencies, nonprofit
3 organizations and the private sector and used resources such as
4 the governor's report "The State of Hunger in New Mexico:
5 Beginning the Plan to End Hunger"; the legislatively approved
6 House Joint Memorial 64 of the first session of the forty-sixth
7 legislature, which requested the human services department to
8 develop a plan to address the underuse of food stamps in New
9 Mexico; and various other privately researched reports,
10 including New Mexico voices for children's "The Economic Impact
11 of Increasing Food Stamp Utilization by New Mexico Families";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, after two days of deliberations, the governor's
14 hunger summit identified a number of challenges and problems of
15 food insecurity in New Mexico and articulated recommendations,
16 strategies and solutions to end hunger in the state; and

17 WHEREAS, the summit resulted in the creation of a steering
18 committee, the "task force to end hunger in New Mexico", whose
19 mandate is to shape and mold these deliberations into tangible
20 steps for ending hunger;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
22 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the task force to end hunger in New
23 Mexico be requested to continue its work on these food
24 insecurity issues and report its progress on the development
25 and implementation of tangible steps to alleviate and,

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1 eventually, eliminate hunger to the legislature by November 15,
2 2004; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force involve, use
4 and draw upon the resources and, where necessary, staff of
5 state agencies that are concerned with food programs and
6 agricultural production, including the state agency on aging,
7 the New Mexico department of agriculture, the children, youth
8 and families department, the department of health and the human
9 services department; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these departments commit
11 reasonable resources and staff to the development of this
12 report and to the implementation of tangible steps to end
13 hunger and food insecurity; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force involve, use
15 and draw upon the resources of those private persons, groups
16 and nonprofit organizations that participated in the governor's
17 hunger summit or that otherwise express concern over food
18 insecurity and hunger in the state; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the task force to end hunger in New Mexico, the
21 director of the state agency on aging, the director of the New
22 Mexico department of agriculture and the secretaries of
23 children, youth and families; health; and human services.