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A MEMORIAL

REGARDING THE ENHANCEMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN'S NUTRITION AND  
NEW MEXICO'S FARMING ECONOMY.

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

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs play an important  
role in helping to ensure that every student in New Mexico  
starts school ready to learn, because a hungry or  
undernourished child is less likely to be an eager and  
attentive student; and

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

WHEREAS, in New Mexico, two hundred three public,  
private and bureau of Indian affairs schools serve over two  
hundred twelve thousand children who participate in the free  
or reduced-price school meal programs, constituting  
two-thirds of the total school population; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is ranked number one in the country  
in the number of students participating in school breakfast

1 programs; and

2 WHEREAS, the threat to the future health of New Mexico's  
3 children has never been greater because, as in the case of  
4 children across America, the percentage of New Mexico's  
5 children who are obese or overweight (twenty-four percent of  
6 the state's high school students) is growing; and

7 WHEREAS, if New Mexico does not reverse these risks by  
8 improving its young people's diets, the state is in danger of  
9 raising the first generation of American children with a  
10 lower life expectancy than their parents; and

11 WHEREAS, obesity and diet-related diseases cost New  
12 Mexicans three hundred twenty-four million dollars  
13 (\$324,000,000) annually; and

14 WHEREAS, healthy eating habits are formed during  
15 childhood and decrease the risk of chronic diseases; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2007, the New Mexico department of  
17 agriculture, in conjunction with farm to table, a New Mexico  
18 nonprofit entity, published the New Mexico farm to school  
19 directory, which lists more than one hundred New Mexico  
20 farmers who are ready, able and willing to supply nutritious  
21 and locally grown foods and crops to the school districts of  
22 New Mexico;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it be committed to turn back the  
25 rising tide of poor diet by having additional fresh fruits

1 and vegetables served in school meals to every New Mexico  
2 student and to strengthening our farming communities and  
3 increasing farmers' incomes by purchasing fruits and  
4 vegetables, when available, from New Mexico farmers; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it request that the school  
6 districts and their respective boards of education and  
7 superintendents place great emphasis on, and make a high  
8 priority as a matter of educational policy for, the purchase  
9 of locally grown foods in their school food programs for the  
10 benefit of their students; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it encourage the food  
12 service directors of New Mexico school districts to search  
13 out in their various locales, with the assistance of the New  
14 Mexico department of agriculture and farm to table, local  
15 farmers who want to supply locally grown foods for school  
16 food programs; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it encourage the sending of  
18 copies of the New Mexico farm to school directory to all  
19 school food service directors; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to all New Mexico school districts. \_\_\_\_\_

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