

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2014 "SCHOOL NUTRITION DAY" IN THE
3 SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the
6 national school lunch program and school breakfast program
7 have provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals to
8 schoolchildren throughout New Mexico for more than sixty
9 years; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of
16 their daily calories at school, and for many children, food
17 served at school may be the only nutritious food they
18 regularly eat; and

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

24 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs have demonstrated a
25 commitment in New Mexico to promote children's health,

1 well-being and educational excellence as primary goals for
2 student success; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has ranked first nationally in
4 students participating in school breakfast programs in five
5 of the last six years and has been among the top ten states
6 in numbers of students participating in school breakfast
7 programs in the last ten years; and

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

11 WHEREAS, more than fifty farmers currently sell fruits
12 and vegetables grown in New Mexico to sixty school districts,
13 serving one hundred forty-six thousand eight hundred
14 forty-eight schoolchildren, a measure that contributes to a
15 healthy diet and mitigates childhood obesity; and

16 WHEREAS, thirty-two percent of New Mexican children are
17 overweight or obese, and experts project that a healthier
18 population could save the state more than three hundred
19 twenty-four million dollars (\$324,000,000) annually in
20 obesity-related health care expenses and an additional one
21 billion two hundred million dollars (\$1,200,000,000) annually
22 in diabetes-related health care expenses;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
24 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state recognize that funding for
25 school nutrition programs to promote healthier lifestyles and

1 academic achievement is a wise investment in the health of
2 its people and its future work force; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Monday, February 3, 2014, be
4 declared "School Nutrition Day" in the senate. _____

SM 48
Page 3

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