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HOUSE MEMORIAL 54

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales and Brian Egolf

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 20, 2017 "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 seventy 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, well-
8 being and educational excellence as primary goals for student
9 success; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the public education department's fresh fruit and
19 vegetable program brings healthy, farm-grown food to tens of
20 thousands of schoolchildren in the state, a measure that
21 contributes to a healthy diet and mitigates childhood obesity;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, as recently as 2011, nearly one-third of New
24 Mexico children were overweight or obese, and experts project
25 that a healthier population could save the state more than one

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1 billion five hundred million dollars (\$1,500,000,000) annually
2 in health care expenses related to obesity and diabetes;

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

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Monday, February 20, 2017, be
10 declared "School Nutrition Day" in the house of
11 representatives.