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HOUSE MEMORIAL 90

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A
"HUNGER COUNCIL" MADE UP OF LEGISLATORS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM
STATE AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM
ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE WORKING TO END HUNGER AND POVERTY
STATEWIDE, TO MEET DURING THE 2018 INTERIM AND DRAFT A SINGLE,
STATEWIDE PLAN FOR ENDING HUNGER IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, the 2017 "map the meal gap" report from the
national anti-hunger organization feeding America indicates
that twenty-five percent of children, or one hundred twenty-
four thousand nine hundred eighty children, are at risk of
hunger in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 report ranks New Mexico second-highest
among the states for childhood hunger, tied with Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the map the meal gap report also shows that the

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1 overall hunger rate in New Mexico is sixteen percent, whereby
2 three hundred thirty-two thousand six hundred ten New Mexicans
3 are at risk for hunger, ranking New Mexico seventh among states
4 with the worst rates of food insecurity, which ties New Mexico
5 with Ohio; and

6 WHEREAS, the meal gap remains high, with nearly sixty
7 million meals missing from the tables of hungry New Mexicans;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, hunger is directly linked to poverty; and

10 WHEREAS, the 2017 annual KIDS COUNT report compiled by the
11 Annie E. Casey foundation and presented by New Mexico voices
12 for children found that too many children in New Mexico
13 continue to lack access to even the most basic resources needed
14 to thrive; and

15 WHEREAS, child poverty is high, and child well-being in
16 New Mexico is poor; and

17 WHEREAS, the 2017 KIDS COUNT report provides statistics
18 for 2016, indicating that more than one hundred forty-five
19 thousand children under eighteen years of age in New Mexico
20 were living in poverty; and

21 WHEREAS, according to the 2015 KIDS COUNT report, one
22 hundred eleven thousand New Mexico children – nearly one in
23 four New Mexico children – lived in households that were food
24 insecure at some point during 2014; and

25 WHEREAS, the 2017 KIDS COUNT report indicates that four

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1 hundred four thousand New Mexicans, or roughly one in five
2 state residents, were living in poverty in 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest rate of working
4 families who live below the poverty line, at seventeen percent;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, although there are a number of public and private
7 programs that seek to address issues relating to hunger in New
8 Mexico, many of these programs are "siloed", and there is
9 little systematic communication among these programs; and

10 WHEREAS, there is a need for a single, statewide plan
11 among policymakers, agencies and organizations for ending
12 hunger in New Mexico;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
14 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico
15 legislative council be requested to create a "hunger council"
16 made up of legislators from both chambers and political
17 parties, representatives from state agencies, counties and
18 municipalities and representatives from organizations that are
19 working to end hunger and poverty statewide, to meet during the
20 2018 interim and draft a single, statewide plan for ending
21 hunger in New Mexico; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative
23 council be requested to invite to participate on the hunger
24 council representatives from the human services department; the
25 aging and long-term services department; the children, youth

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1 and families department; the New Mexico association of
2 counties; the New Mexico municipal league; the interfaith
3 hunger coalition and its partners; and representatives of
4 community anti-hunger and anti-poverty organizations; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services,
7 the secretary of aging and long-term services, the secretary of
8 children, youth and families and the convener of the interfaith
9 hunger coalition.