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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Ron Godbey

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, NEW MEXICO STATE
UNIVERSITY, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO AND THE STATE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY AND IDENTIFY THE HEALTH
AND EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF SELECTIVE NUTRITION CHOICES IN FOOD
AND BEVERAGES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.**

**WHEREAS, the health and academic performance of children
in public schools is of particular growing concern to New
Mexicans; and**

**WHEREAS, some public schools make available to children
food products and beverages that offer little nutritional value
and that contribute to an inability to focus and concentrate on
school work; and**

**WHEREAS, there has been inadequate emphasis on promoting
the health and academic benefits of optimum nutrition in the**

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1 public schools; and

2 WHEREAS, obesity is a growing national problem that is
3 directly related to many chronic diseases such as diabetes,
4 hypertension and heart disease; and

5 WHEREAS, many of the foods and beverages readily available
6 in the public schools are known to contribute to obesity,
7 resulting in earlier onset of those and other diseases; and

8 WHEREAS, hundreds of thousands of children nationwide and
9 thousands of children in New Mexico are currently taking
10 prescription drugs to control their behavior in the classroom;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, improved nutrition could eliminate the need for
13 prescription drugs and offer an effective and natural
14 alternative to increase the focus and attention of children in
15 the classroom and improve their overall conduct; and

16 WHEREAS, the state department of public education, the
17 department of health and others have a desire and an obligation
18 to address the health and welfare of children attending public
19 schools;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be requested
22 to lead a study, with the participation of the state department
23 of public education and the health sciences centers of New
24 Mexico state university and the university of New Mexico, to
25 identify the ways in which optimum nutrition in schools can

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1 contribute to a healthy classroom experience among children;
2 and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study identify measures
4 that promote healthy lifestyles among children, including
5 proper availability of nutritious foods and beverages; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also include
7 participation from statewide nutrition groups, representatives
8 of the food and beverage industry and other interested parties;
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department of health
11 report its findings and recommendations to the interim
12 legislative health and human services committee and the
13 legislative education study committee at their respective
14 October 2003 meetings; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the department of health, the state department
17 of public education, the health sciences centers of New Mexico
18 state university and the university of New Mexico, the
19 legislative health and human services committee and the
20 legislative education study committee.

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