

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING JANUARY 24, 2012 "FOODCORPS AND AMERICORPS DAY" AT
3 THE SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, limited access to good, nutritious food has
6 become a barrier to health, resulting in a combined
7 percentage of overweight or obese children that includes
8 thirty and three-tenths percent of kindergarten students and
9 thirty-eight and seven-tenths percent of third grade students
10 in New Mexico; and

11 WHEREAS, one-third of New Mexico's thirty-three counties
12 have been designated as having limited food access, with
13 rural families traveling up to one hundred forty miles
14 round-trip to reach a grocery store; and

15 WHEREAS, this detriment to the health of New Mexico's
16 children serves as a call to action, and residents have
17 stepped up to meet this challenge through the national
18 service program AmeriCorps and its newest grant recipient,
19 FoodCorps; and

20 WHEREAS, FoodCorps aims to produce a measurably
21 healthier school food environment and serves as a resource to
22 researchers across the school food field in an effort to
23 combat childhood obesity; and

24 WHEREAS, FoodCorps service members work to improve
25 nutrition education, engagement with gardens and access to

1 healthy food in order to achieve the larger goal established
2 by First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move initiative to
3 reduce national childhood obesity rates to below five percent
4 by 2030; and

5 WHEREAS, to achieve this goal, in its inaugural year,
6 FoodCorps has built or expanded one hundred thirty-seven
7 garden projects, donated over four thousand pounds of garden
8 produce, engaged two hundred forty-five new community
9 volunteers and reached twenty-five thousand eight hundred
10 fifty-six school children in New Mexico and across the
11 United States;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 24, 2012 be declared
14 "FoodCorps and AmeriCorps Day" at the senate and that
15 residents be urged to thank FoodCorps and AmeriCorps members
16 for their service and to find ways to improve children's
17 health through increased food access in New Mexico; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the executive directors of FoodCorps and
20 AmeriCorps.
