

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A  
3 WORKING GROUP TO STUDY REPACKAGING SCHOOL MEALS FOR DONATION  
4 TO STUDENTS.

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6 WHEREAS, New Mexico's children have the highest rate in  
7 the United States of food insecurity, which is limited or  
8 uncertain access to nutritionally adequate food necessary for  
9 an active and healthy life; and

10 WHEREAS, studies have shown that children who live in  
11 households experiencing food insecurity are more likely to  
12 exhibit behavioral, emotional and academic problems in school,  
13 resulting in school suspension, repeating a grade, poor  
14 engagement with their studies, referrals to a psychologist,  
15 difficulty getting along with other children, aggression,  
16 anxiety and lower arithmetic scores; and

17 WHEREAS, children who eat regular nutritious meals  
18 during childhood receive immediate benefits in health,  
19 well-being and academic performance as well as improved  
20 outcomes in overall health and reduced risk of chronic disease  
21 later in life; and

22 WHEREAS, approximately thirty-one percent of the overall  
23 food supply is wasted in the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2015, the United States department of  
25 agriculture and the United States environmental protection

1 agency set a national food waste reduction goal of fifty  
2 percent by 2030; and

3 WHEREAS, food insecurity among children and food waste  
4 can both be alleviated by repackaging food that would  
5 normally be wasted in school cafeterias and sending that food  
6 home with students; and

7 WHEREAS, the benefits of recovering food that would  
8 normally be wasted include the ability to donate that food to  
9 people experiencing food insecurity, the elimination of costs  
10 and resource consumption associated with food production,  
11 processing and distribution and the reduction of the  
12 environmental impact of food waste being transported to  
13 landfills where it emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be  
16 requested to convene a working group no later than  
17 June 1, 2020 to develop recommendations for repackaging  
18 school meals for donation to students; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be  
20 composed of representatives from the public education  
21 department, New Mexico department of agriculture, department  
22 of environment, department of health, human services  
23 department, children, youth and families department and  
24 appropriate nongovernmental organizations; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be

1 requested to study food insecurity, food waste, benefits of  
2 proper nutrition for a child's education, food donation and  
3 how other states have addressed food waste and food  
4 insecurity in schools; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be  
6 requested to report its findings and conclusions to  
7 the appropriate interim legislative committee by  
8 November 1, 2020; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
10 transmitted to the public education department, New Mexico  
11 department of agriculture, department of environment,  
12 department of health, human services department, children,  
13 youth and families department and appropriate nongovernmental  
14 organizations. \_\_\_\_\_

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