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HOUSE MEMORIAL 1

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SPECIAL SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Ben Lujan

A MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING EFFORTS TO EXPAND NEW MEXICO'S FOOD STAMP
ENROLLMENT AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FEDERAL FOOD
STAMP PROGRAM TO NEW MEXICO'S ECONOMY.

WHEREAS, the federal food stamp program has been renamed
the "supplemental nutrition assistance program" and is called
"SNAP"; and

WHEREAS, the name change and other important changes will
become effective October 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, low-income New Mexicans are encouraged to apply
for food stamps not only because food stamps improve nutrition
for New Mexico families, but also because food stamps help New
Mexico's economy; and

WHEREAS, the federal government funds all food stamp
benefits; and

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1 WHEREAS, in June 2008 alone, New Mexico's ninety-seven
2 thousand nine hundred eighty-nine food stamp cases generated
3 over twenty-two million dollars (\$22,000,000) in the local
4 economy; and

5 WHEREAS, many people eligible for food stamps are not
6 enrolled and benefits will increase because of federal changes;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, more New Mexicans would benefit if New Mexico
9 joined Arizona, Texas and thirteen other states in eliminating
10 or greatly increasing financial asset limits for food stamps
11 and, thus, encourage savings; and

12 WHEREAS, community partners and organizations can assist
13 with food stamp enrollment;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the human
16 services department be urged to develop and implement
17 additional outreach efforts to encourage all eligible low-
18 income New Mexicans to apply for food stamp benefits; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
20 be urged to increase the use of community partners and
21 organizations to assist with food stamp enrollment; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
23 be urged to join the other fifteen states that have raised or
24 eliminated the financial asset limit allowed for families; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department

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1 be urged to increase the use of telephone eligibility
2 interviews and further simplify the enrollment process for food
3 stamps; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
5 be encouraged to provide information about food stamp
6 eligibility in English and Spanish for all low-income
7 comprehensive tax rebate clients and provide information on how
8 to apply for food stamps; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the human services department
10 report to the legislative health and human services committee
11 by its November 2009 meeting on the department's efforts and
12 plans to enroll more food stamp clients and the results it has
13 seen from such efforts; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the secretary of human services and the chair of
16 the legislative health and human services committee.