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SENATE MEMORIAL 48

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2014 "SCHOOL NUTRITION DAY" IN THE
SENATE.

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the
national school lunch program and school breakfast program have
provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals to
schoolchildren throughout New Mexico for more than sixty years;
and

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs serve healthy meals,
free or at low cost, to students in New Mexico schools; and

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs not only feed hungry
children and support family well-being, they also act as
"economic stabilizers" during economic downturns; and

WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of their
daily calories at school, and for many children, food served at

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1 school may be the only nutritious food they regularly eat; and

2 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs play an important role
3 in helping to ensure that every student in New Mexico starts
4 school ready to learn, since studies show that a well-fed and
5 well-nourished child is a more eager and attentive student; and

6 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs have demonstrated a
7 commitment in New Mexico to promote children's health,
8 well-being and educational excellence as primary goals for
9 student success; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico has ranked first nationally in
11 students participating in school breakfast programs in five of
12 the last six years and has been among the top ten states in
13 numbers of students participating in school breakfast programs
14 in the last ten years; and

15 WHEREAS, over three hundred forty-five thousand one
16 hundred one students across New Mexico are eligible to
17 participate in school meal programs; and

18 WHEREAS, more than fifty farmers currently sell fruits and
19 vegetables grown in New Mexico to sixty school districts,
20 serving one hundred forty-six thousand eight hundred forty-
21 eight schoolchildren, a measure that contributes to a healthy
22 diet and mitigates childhood obesity; and

23 WHEREAS, thirty-two percent of New Mexican children are
24 overweight or obese, and experts project that a healthier
25 population could save the state more than three hundred twenty-

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1 four million dollars (\$324,000,000) annually in obesity-related
2 health care expenses and an additional one billion two hundred
3 million dollars (\$1,200,000,000) annually in diabetes-related
4 health care expenses;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
6 OF NEW MEXICO that the state recognize that funding for school
7 nutrition programs to promote healthier lifestyles and academic
8 achievement is a wise investment in the health of its people
9 and its future work force; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Monday, February 3, 2014, be
11 declared "School Nutrition Day" in the senate.