

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Jim R. Trujillo

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO DECLARE SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH 25,  
2015 "NEW MEXICO HUNGER WEEK" IN THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE.

WHEREAS, nationwide, New Mexico has one of the highest  
rates of overall food insecurity of all of its residents,  
including children, veterans, the homeless and seniors; and

WHEREAS, annual feeding America statistics ranked New  
Mexico as the most food insecure state for children in the  
nation; and

WHEREAS, forty thousand New Mexicans seek food assistance  
each week; and

WHEREAS, forty percent of New Mexicans who receive food  
assistance are children under the age of eighteen, while seven  
percent of those children are under the age of five; and

WHEREAS, thirteen percent of people who seek food

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1 assistance are senior citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, it is a myth that people who need food assistance  
3 are homeless or out of work when, in reality, only eight  
4 percent of people seeking assistance are homeless and thirty-  
5 two percent of households seeking emergency food assistance  
6 include at least one employed adult; and

7 WHEREAS, while thousands of New Mexicans receive  
8 assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance  
9 program, the funding only provides for less than three weeks of  
10 groceries; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexicans face difficult choices between  
12 paying for food and paying for utilities, rent or mortgage,  
13 medicine or medical care and transportation; and

14 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address New Mexico's  
15 food insecurity and to eliminate hunger in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, a hunger summit coordinated and sponsored by the  
17 north central New Mexico economic development district and the  
18 non-metro area agency on aging will be held on September 23-24,  
19 2015 at the Marriott Albuquerque to address these issues; and

20 WHEREAS, statewide participation is expected to include  
21 federal and state agencies, local governments, nonprofit  
22 agencies, food banks, faith-based organizations and other  
23 entities that are addressing hunger issues in New Mexico;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to declare

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1 September 21 through 25, 2015 "New Mexico Hunger Week" in the  
2 legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the north central New Mexico economic  
5 development district and the non-metro area agency on aging.