

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2016 "SCHOOL NUTRITION DAY" IN THE
3 SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the
6 national school lunch program and school breakfast program
7 have provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals to
8 schoolchildren throughout New Mexico for more than sixty
9 years; and

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

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

15 WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of
16 their daily calories at school, and for many children, food
17 served at school may be the only nutritious food they
18 regularly eat; and

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

24 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs have demonstrated a
25 commitment in New Mexico to promote children's health,

1 well-being and educational excellence as primary goals for
2 student success; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico has ranked first or second
4 nationally in students participating in school breakfast
5 programs in recent years and has been among the top ten
6 states in numbers of students participating in school
7 breakfast programs in the last ten years; and

8 WHEREAS, nearly two hundred twelve thousand students
9 across New Mexico are eligible to participate in school meal
10 programs; and

11 WHEREAS, the public education department's fresh fruit
12 and vegetable program brings healthy, farm-grown food to tens
13 of thousands of schoolchildren in the state, a measure that
14 contributes to a healthy diet and mitigates childhood
15 obesity; and

16 WHEREAS, as recently as 2011, nearly one-third of
17 New Mexico children were overweight or obese, and experts
18 project that a healthier population could save the state more
19 than one billion five hundred million dollars
20 (\$1,500,000,000) annually in health care expenses related to
21 obesity and diabetes;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state recognize that funding for
24 school nutrition programs to promote healthier lifestyles and
25 academic achievement is a wise investment in the health of

