

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A  
3 "HUNGER COUNCIL" MADE UP OF LEGISLATORS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
4 STATE AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM  
5 ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE WORKING TO END HUNGER AND POVERTY  
6 STATEWIDE, TO MEET DURING THE 2018 INTERIM AND DRAFT A  
7 SINGLE, STATEWIDE PLAN FOR ENDING HUNGER IN NEW MEXICO.

8  
9 WHEREAS, the 2017 "map the meal gap" report from the  
10 national anti-hunger organization feeding America indicates  
11 that twenty-five percent of children, or one hundred twenty-  
12 four thousand nine hundred eighty children, are at risk of  
13 hunger in New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, the 2017 report ranks New Mexico second-highest  
15 among the states for childhood hunger, tied with Arkansas;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, the map the meal gap report also shows that the  
18 overall hunger rate in New Mexico is sixteen percent, whereby  
19 three hundred thirty-two thousand six hundred ten New  
20 Mexicans are at risk for hunger, ranking New Mexico seventh  
21 among states with the worst rates of food insecurity, which  
22 ties New Mexico with Ohio; and

23 WHEREAS, the meal gap remains high, with nearly sixty  
24 million meals missing from the tables of hungry New Mexicans;  
25 and

1           WHEREAS, hunger is directly linked to poverty; and

2           WHEREAS, the 2017 annual KIDS COUNT report compiled by  
3 the Annie E. Casey foundation and presented by New Mexico  
4 voices for children found that too many children in New  
5 Mexico continue to lack access to even the most basic  
6 resources needed to thrive; and

7           WHEREAS, child poverty is high, and child well-being in  
8 New Mexico is poor; and

9           WHEREAS, the 2017 KIDS COUNT report provides statistics  
10 for 2016, indicating that more than one hundred forty-five  
11 thousand children under eighteen years of age in New Mexico  
12 were living in poverty; and

13           WHEREAS, according to the 2015 KIDS COUNT report, one  
14 hundred eleven thousand New Mexico children – nearly one in  
15 four New Mexico children – lived in households that were food  
16 insecure at some point during 2014; and

17           WHEREAS, the 2017 KIDS COUNT report indicates that four  
18 hundred four thousand New Mexicans, or roughly one in five  
19 state residents, were living in poverty in 2016; and

20           WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest rate of working  
21 families who live below the poverty line, at seventeen  
22 percent; and

23           WHEREAS, although there are a number of public and  
24 private programs that seek to address issues relating to  
25 hunger in New Mexico, many of these programs are "siloed",

1 and there is little systematic communication among these  
2 programs; and

3 WHEREAS, there is a need for a single, statewide plan  
4 among policymakers, agencies and organizations for ending  
5 hunger in New Mexico;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
7 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New  
8 Mexico legislative council be requested to create a "hunger  
9 council" made up of legislators from both chambers and  
10 political parties, representatives from state agencies,  
11 counties and municipalities and representatives from  
12 organizations that are working to end hunger and poverty  
13 statewide, to meet during the 2018 interim and draft a  
14 single, statewide plan for ending hunger in New Mexico; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative  
16 council be requested to invite to participate on the hunger  
17 council representatives from the human services department;  
18 the aging and long-term services department; the children,  
19 youth and families department; the New Mexico association of  
20 counties; the New Mexico municipal league; the interfaith  
21 hunger coalition and its partners; and representatives of  
22 community anti-hunger and anti-poverty organizations; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
24 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services,  
25 the secretary of aging and long-term services, the secretary

1 of children, youth and families and the convener of the

2 interfaith hunger coalition.

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