

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING MARCH 5, 2019 AS "END HUNGER DAY" IN THE NEW MEXICO
12 LEGISLATURE.

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14 WHEREAS, the 2018 "map the meal gap" report from the
15 national anti-hunger organization feeding America indicates
16 that twenty-six percent of children, or one hundred twenty-five
17 thousand two hundred ten children, are at risk of hunger in New
18 Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, the United States department of agriculture
20 research service ranks New Mexico sixth-highest among the
21 states with the most people experiencing hunger; and

22 WHEREAS, the map the meal gap report also shows that
23 hunger is getting worse in New Mexico: the overall hunger rate
24 in New Mexico is seventeen percent, an increase from 2017's
25 rate of sixteen percent; and

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1 WHEREAS, hunger is directly linked to poverty; and

2 WHEREAS, the 2018 annual KIDS COUNT report compiled by the
3 Annie E. Casey foundation found that seventeen percent of New
4 Mexico children struggle with food insecurity; and

5 WHEREAS, the 2018 KIDS COUNT report ranks New Mexico, with
6 twenty-seven percent of children living in poverty, among the
7 states with the worst rates of child poverty; and

8 WHEREAS, the center for American progress reports that
9 four hundred one thousand seven hundred fifty-five New
10 Mexicans, or nearly one in five state residents, were living in
11 poverty in 2017; and

12 WHEREAS, although there are a number of public and private
13 programs that seek to address issues relating to hunger in New
14 Mexico, many of these programs are "siloed", and there is
15 little systematic communication among these programs; and

16 WHEREAS, there is a need for a single, statewide plan
17 among policymakers, agencies and organizations for ending
18 hunger in New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, at the request of the house of representatives,
20 pursuant to 2018's House Memorial 90, a multidisciplinary,
21 multi-stakeholder "hunger council" made up of legislators,
22 state and local government agency representatives and experts
23 in hunger and poverty policy has been meeting to develop a
24 single statewide plan for ending hunger in New Mexico;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Tuesday, March 5, 2019, be declared
2 "End Hunger Day" in the legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hunger council be
4 requested to continue its work on a single, statewide plan for
5 ending hunger in New Mexico; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the New Mexico
7 legislature be requested to form a "hunger caucus" to support
8 legislation aimed at ending hunger in New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services,
11 the secretary of aging and long-term services, the secretary of
12 children, youth and families and the convener of the hunger
13 council.