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SENATE MEMORIAL 18

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 6, 2020 "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS AND SCHOOL NUTRITION DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming culture that is significant to the rural economy and provides employment opportunities on farms; in direct, wholesale and retail outlets; and in food processing, distribution and value-added business; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that for every one dollar (\$1.00) that goes to local agricultural producers, one dollar eighty cents (\$1.80) is circulated in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, if New Mexico consumers purchased only fifteen percent of their food from the state's farmers and ranchers, annual farm income would increase by three hundred ninety-two million dollars (\$392,000,000); and

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1           WHEREAS, an investment in children's health will help stem  
2 the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico, where thirty-two  
3 percent of children are overweight or obese; and

4           WHEREAS, the 2017 "Map the Meal Gap" report from the  
5 national anti-hunger organization Feeding America indicates  
6 that twenty-four percent of children, or one hundred twenty-  
7 five thousand two hundred ten children in New Mexico, are at  
8 risk for hunger; and

9           WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the  
10 national school lunch program, school breakfast program and  
11 summer foodservice program have provided millions of healthy  
12 and nutritious meals to school children throughout New Mexico  
13 for more than seventy years; and

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

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

20           WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of their  
21 daily calories at school, and for many children, food served at  
22 school is the only food they eat daily; and

23           WHEREAS, increased investment from the legislature enables  
24 schools to feature New-Mexico-grown produce, meet federal  
25 nutrition requirements, serve more fresh fruits and vegetables

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1 to children and support economic development opportunities for  
2 local farmers, entrepreneurs and communities; and

3 WHEREAS, over the last seven years, more than fifty-eight  
4 school food authorities have purchased New-Mexico-grown produce  
5 for school meals with state funds, enhancing the diets of three  
6 hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred students, promoting  
7 healthier lifestyles and increasing academic achievement, while  
8 close to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) has benefited New  
9 Mexico's farming economy; and

10 WHEREAS, seventy farmers' markets are providing New Mexico  
11 products to forty-five thousand people each week in thirty-two  
12 counties by direct sales and through the supplemental nutrition  
13 assistance program, the special supplemental nutrition program  
14 for women, infants, and children and the senior farmers' market  
15 nutrition program, creating fresh food access for low-income  
16 individuals and resulting in annual gross sales to farmers of  
17 close to eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) in 2019; and

18 WHEREAS, eighty double up food bucks outlets, including  
19 farmers' markets, grocery stores, farm stands and mobile  
20 markets, are making it more affordable for supplemental  
21 nutrition assistance program participants across the state to  
22 increase the amount of fresh, New-Mexico-grown produce they eat  
23 while providing nine hundred seventy New Mexico farmers with  
24 more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in electronic  
25 benefits transfer sales during 2018; and

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1           WHEREAS, a healthier population will help save the state  
2 an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars  
3 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an  
4 additional one billion two hundred million dollars  
5 (\$1,200,000,000) in diabetes-related health care expenses; and

6           WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and  
7 distribution centers and community kitchens could accelerate  
8 the economic growth of farmers and rural food entrepreneurs;  
9 and

10          WHEREAS, the growing number of New Mexico community and  
11 school gardens provides an important way for children and  
12 families to engage in growing food and provides a way for  
13 children to learn about nutrition and life sciences; and

14          WHEREAS, to achieve these goals, agricultural-, health-  
15 and education-related organizations and agencies help  
16 coordinate programs and make connections among health, the  
17 built environment and policies through the support of  
18 organizations such as food policy councils, health councils,  
19 health equity partnerships, foodcorps, Americorps, 4-H, farm to  
20 school programs and others;

21          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
22 OF NEW MEXICO that the state recognize that the time has come  
23 to invest in New Mexico's children, economy and future; and

24          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that February 6, 2020 be declared  
25 "New Mexico Food and Farms and School Nutrition Day" in the

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1 senate; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
3 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico  
4 farmers' marketing association.

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