

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 7

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CONVENE A TASK
12 FORCE TO STUDY CHILDREN'S ACCESS TO PROPER NUTRITION.

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14 WHEREAS, New Mexico's children have one of the highest
15 rates in the United States of food insecurity, which is the
16 inability to consistently access an adequate amount of
17 nutritious food necessary for a healthy life; and

18 WHEREAS, the current economic situation has led to
19 increasing rates of food insecure children in New Mexico; and

20 WHEREAS, children who live in families that experience
21 hunger have been shown to be more likely to have lower math
22 scores, face an increased likelihood of repeating a grade and
23 receive more special education services; and

24 WHEREAS, collaboration between state agencies and
25 nonprofit entities working on the issues of children's hunger

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1 and health is essential to improve the health and well-being of
2 New Mexico's children who are food insecure; and

3 WHEREAS, the student nutrition task force established in
4 2009 by the public education department has been extremely
5 effective at bringing stakeholders together to make positive
6 policy change on behalf of New Mexico's food insecure children,
7 and the work of the task force should continue;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
10 requested to continue the work of the student nutrition task
11 force by convening a task force no later than June 1, 2011 to
12 study children's hunger and access to nutrition in New Mexico's
13 schools; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be composed of
15 eleven members as follows: two representatives from the public
16 education department appointed by the secretary of public
17 education, including at least one representative from the
18 student nutrition bureau of the program support and student
19 transportation division of the public education department; one
20 representative from the department of health, appointed by the
21 secretary of health; two representatives from the human
22 services department, appointed by the secretary of human
23 services; two representatives from the children, youth and
24 families department, appointed by the secretary of children,
25 youth and families; and one representative each from the New

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1 Mexico school superintendent association, the New Mexico school
2 boards association, farm to table and New Mexico appleseed, all
3 appointed by the governor; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force study and
5 monitor the mechanisms for distributing state, federal and
6 private funding for school programs aimed at reducing child
7 hunger, the mechanisms for prioritizing prospective uses for
8 the money, the programs in place to provide hunger assistance
9 through the public schools of New Mexico, the procedures for
10 ensuring the appropriateness and effectiveness of the
11 expenditures and strategies to ensure the money is invested in
12 a manner that provides the most services to the children of New
13 Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force pursue
15 legislation establishing the task force as a permanent entity;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
18 findings to the appropriate interim legislative committees and
19 to the governor no later than December 1, 2011; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the secretary
22 of health, the secretary of human services, the secretary of
23 children, youth and families, the governor, the New Mexico
24 school superintendent association, the New Mexico school boards
25 association, farm to table and New Mexico appleseed.