

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 19

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Howie C. Morales

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 DECLARING JULY 14 THROUGH 18, 2014 AS "NEW MEXICO HUNGER WEEK"
12 IN THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE.

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14 WHEREAS, nationwide, New Mexico has one of the highest
15 rates of overall food insecurity of all residents, including
16 children, veterans, the homeless and seniors; and

17 WHEREAS, annual feeding America statistics ranked New
18 Mexico as the most food insecure state for children in the
19 nation; and

20 WHEREAS, forty thousand New Mexicans seek food assistance
21 each week; and

22 WHEREAS, forty percent of New Mexicans who receive food
23 assistance are children under the age of eighteen, while seven
24 percent of those children are under the age of five; and

25 WHEREAS, thirteen percent of people who seek food

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1 assistance are senior citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, it is a myth that people who need food assistance
3 are homeless or out of work, when, in reality, only eight
4 percent of people seeking assistance are homeless and thirty-
5 two percent of households seeking emergency food assistance
6 include at least one employed adult; and

7 WHEREAS, while thousands of New Mexicans receive
8 assistance through the supplemental nutrition assistance
9 program, the funding only provides for less than three weeks of
10 groceries; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexicans face difficult choices between
12 paying for food and paying for utilities, rent or mortgage,
13 medicine or medical care and transportation; and

14 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address New Mexico's
15 food insecurity and to eliminate hunger in New Mexico; and

16 WHEREAS, a hunger summit coordinated and sponsored by the
17 north central New Mexico economic development district and the
18 non-metro area agency on aging will be held on July 17-18, 2014
19 at the Isleta resort and casino in Albuquerque to address these
20 issues; and

21 WHEREAS, statewide participation is expected to include
22 federal and state agencies, local governments, nonprofit
23 agencies, food banks, faith-based organizations and other
24 entities that are addressing hunger issues in New Mexico;

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

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1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that July 14 through 18, 2014 be declared
2 "New Mexico Hunger Week" in the legislature; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the north central New Mexico economic
5 development district and the non-metro area agency on aging.

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