

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE CORRELATION
3 BETWEEN OBESITY RATES OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE FEDERAL
4 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANTS
5 ENROLLED IN THE FEDERAL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
6 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN.

7
8 WHEREAS, as of 2013, the adult obesity rate in New
9 Mexico was twenty-six and four-tenths percent, according to
10 the "State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier
11 America Report"; and

12 WHEREAS, the current obesity rate for two- to
13 four-year-olds from New Mexico low-income families is eleven
14 and three-tenths percent as reported by the federal centers
15 for disease control and prevention in August 2013; and

16 WHEREAS, obesity-related conditions include heart
17 disease, stroke, type two diabetes and certain types of
18 cancer; and

19 WHEREAS, in addition to serious health consequences,
20 the *Journal of Health Economics* estimated annual medical
21 costs of obesity-related illnesses are more than one hundred
22 ninety billion dollars (\$190,000,000,000), or nearly twenty-
23 one percent of annual medical spending in the United States;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, consumption of certain foods and

1 sugar-sweetened beverages has been linked to increased
2 obesity and type two diabetes; and

3 WHEREAS, the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
4 formerly the food stamp program and more commonly known as
5 "SNAP", is a federal program that provides food purchasing
6 assistance to low- or no-income people and can be used to
7 purchase food at grocery stores, convenience stores and some
8 farmers' markets and co-op food programs; and

9 WHEREAS, the federal special supplemental nutrition
10 program for women, infants and children, more commonly known
11 as "WIC", provides federal grants to states for supplemental
12 foods and other services to low-income pregnant,
13 breastfeeding and non-breastfeeding postpartum women and to
14 infants and children up to age five who are found to be at
15 nutritional risk; and

16 WHEREAS, the allowable types of foods and beverages
17 that can be purchased differ between the supplemental
18 nutrition assistance program and the women, infants and
19 children nutrition assistance program; and

20 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial to study the
21 nutritional value of the foods and beverages offered by the
22 two programs and the obesity rates of participants in the
23 two programs;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the department of health be

1 requested to study the correlation between obesity rates of
2 participants in the federal supplemental nutrition
3 assistance program and participants in the federal special
4 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and
5 children and to present the findings to the appropriate
6 interim committee; and

SM 123
Page 3

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the secretary of health. _____

9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25