

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 123

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO STUDY THE CORRELATION
12 BETWEEN OBESITY RATES OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE FEDERAL
13 SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND PARTICIPANTS
14 ENROLLED IN THE FEDERAL SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
15 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN.

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17 WHEREAS, as of 2013, the adult obesity rate in New Mexico
18 was twenty-six and four-tenths percent, according to the "State
19 of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America Report";
20 and

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

25 WHEREAS, obesity-related conditions include heart disease,

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1 stroke, type two diabetes and certain types of cancer; and

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

7 WHEREAS, consumption of certain foods and sugar-sweetened
8 beverages has been linked to increased obesity and type two
9 diabetes; and

10 WHEREAS, the supplemental nutrition assistance program,
11 formerly the food stamp program and more commonly known as
12 "SNAP", is a federal program that provides food purchasing
13 assistance to low- or no-income people and can be used to
14 purchase food at grocery stores, convenience stores and some
15 farmers' markets and co-op food programs; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal special supplemental nutrition
17 program for women, infants and children, more commonly known as
18 "WIC", provides federal grants to states for supplemental foods
19 and other services to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and
20 non-breastfeeding postpartum women and to infants and children
21 up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk; and

22 WHEREAS, the allowable types of foods and beverages that
23 can be purchased differ between the supplemental nutrition
24 assistance program and the women, infants and children
25 nutrition assistance program; and

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