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SENATE MEMORIAL 2

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 3, 2016 "SCHOOL NUTRITION DAY" IN THE  
SENATE.

WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the  
national school lunch program and school breakfast program have  
provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals to  
schoolchildren throughout New Mexico for more than sixty years;  
and

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

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

WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of their  
daily calories at school, and for many children, food served at

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1 school may be the only nutritious food they regularly eat; and

2 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs play an important role  
3 in helping to ensure that every student in New Mexico starts  
4 school ready to learn, since studies show that a well-fed and  
5 well-nourished child is a more eager and attentive student; and

6 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs have demonstrated a  
7 commitment in New Mexico to promote children's health, well-  
8 being and educational excellence as primary goals for student  
9 success; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico has ranked first or second nationally  
11 in students participating in school breakfast programs in  
12 recent years and has been among the top ten states in numbers  
13 of students participating in school breakfast programs in the  
14 last ten years; and

15 WHEREAS, nearly two hundred twelve thousand students  
16 across New Mexico are eligible to participate in school meal  
17 programs; and

18 WHEREAS, the public education department's fresh fruit and  
19 vegetable program brings healthy, farm-grown food to tens of  
20 thousands of schoolchildren in the state, a measure that  
21 contributes to a healthy diet and mitigates childhood obesity;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, as recently as 2011, nearly one-third of New  
24 Mexico children were overweight or obese, and experts project  
25 that a healthier population could save the state more than one

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1 billion five hundred million dollars (\$1,500,000,000) annually  
2 in health care expenses related to obesity and diabetes;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
4 OF NEW MEXICO that the state recognize that funding for school  
5 nutrition programs to promote healthier lifestyles and academic  
6 achievement is a wise investment in the health of its people  
7 and its future work force; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wednesday, February 3, 2016,  
9 be declared "School Nutrition Day" in the senate.