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HOUSE MEMORIAL 76

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Angelica Rubio

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HUMAN SERVICES TO EXPLORE AND
REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING A SUPPLEMENTAL
NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PILOT PROGRAM FOR FRESH, HEALTHY
AND AFFORDABLE FOOD ACCESS IN AN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY OR IN
UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES OF THE STATE.

WHEREAS, good nutrition is the foundation for good health
and contributes greatly to well-being; and

WHEREAS, supplemental nutrition assistance program
benefits, or "SNAP", formerly known as "food stamps", is a
United States department of agriculture program that the New
Mexico human services department administers to provide
individuals with low incomes with access to food; and

WHEREAS, SNAP has been a life-saver for many New Mexicans
who have little or no income, providing them with basic

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1 sustenance that they could not otherwise afford; and

2 WHEREAS, New Mexicans who rely on SNAP receive very modest
3 food assistance; and

4 WHEREAS, many New Mexicans have difficulty gaining access
5 to healthy foods because they live in "food deserts" where
6 there are no farmers' markets, where grocery stores are
7 difficult to find and where fresh, healthy food is scarce or
8 unavailable; and

9 WHEREAS, where healthy food is scarce or unavailable, SNAP
10 participants often have to rely on the inexpensive, processed
11 foods that are high in fat, salt and additives and that are
12 less nutritious than farm-fresh and foods with little or no
13 processing, which are available at places such as convenience
14 stores; and

15 WHEREAS, in some communities where there are farmers'
16 markets, SNAP participants can have their SNAP dollars stretch
17 further and provide them access to fresh, healthy foods through
18 the "double-up food bucks" program; and

19 WHEREAS, though the double-up food bucks program is very
20 successful in the communities where there are farmers' markets,
21 there are many areas of the state where there are no nearby
22 farmers' markets;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
25 of human services be requested to explore the creation of a

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1 pilot program in which SNAP participants who live in "food
2 deserts" and do not have access to farmers' markets are
3 provided with access to and incentives to purchase and use
4 healthy, fresh foods; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of human
6 services be requested to consult with representatives of the
7 United States department of agriculture's food and nutrition
8 service, private organizations such as farm-to-table, private
9 foundations and grant programs to learn what supports and
10 services are available for expanding New Mexico's SNAP
11 recipients' access to fresh, healthy and affordable foods; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of human
13 services be requested to report the secretary's findings and
14 recommendations for implementing a SNAP pilot program for
15 fresh, healthy and affordable food access in an underserved
16 community or in underserved communities of the state to the
17 legislative health and human services committee and to the
18 interim committee that reviews matters relating to rural and
19 economic development by October 1, 2017; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the secretary of human services, the president
22 pro tempore of the senate, the speaker of the house of
23 representatives and the legislative health and human services
24 committee.