

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY THE
3 AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE NEW
4 MEXICO SCHOOL MEALS, STUDENT HEALTH, PROGRAM FUNDING AND
5 TRAINING AND TO STUDY THE IMPACT THAT INCREASED APPLICATIONS
6 FOR FUNDING FROM FEDERAL SCHOOL LUNCH OR BREAKFAST PROGRAMS
7 COULD HAVE ON SCHOOL LUNCH DEBT.

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

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico schools provide meals through the
15 following federal nutrition programs: the national school
16 lunch program, the school breakfast program, the fresh fruit
17 and vegetable program, the after school snack program and the
18 seamless summer program; and

19 WHEREAS, other federal school nutrition programs may be
20 available to New Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico's Hunger-Free Students' Bill of
22 Rights Act provides for free meals to students, regardless of
23 whether or not a student has money to pay for a school meal
24 or owes money for previously charged meals; and

25 WHEREAS, a student must complete a meal application to

1 receive free or reduced-fee meals from the national school
2 lunch program and the school breakfast program; and

3 WHEREAS, by federal law, if a school becomes aware that
4 a student who has not submitted a meal application is
5 eligible for free or reduced-fee meals, the school is
6 authorized to complete and file an application for the
7 student; and

8 WHEREAS, if a student owes money for five or more meals,
9 procedures are in place to check a state list of students
10 eligible for free meals or to contact the student's parent or
11 guardian to have a meal application for the student filled
12 out; and

13 WHEREAS, if a student meal debt is written off as an
14 uncollectible bad debt, a school is required to repay the
15 operating loss from writing off the debt with non-federal
16 funds; and

17 WHEREAS, a missed application by the state for funding
18 from federal school lunch or breakfast programs may represent
19 a missed opportunity to help students and their families
20 reduce school lunch debt; and

21 WHEREAS, the percent of school lunch debt that could be
22 eliminated by filing meal applications for eligible students
23 is unknown;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be

1 requested to identify the availability of additional federal
2 programs to improve New Mexico school meals, student health,
3 program funding and training; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
5 department be requested to include an analysis of the impact
6 that increased applications for funding from federal school
7 lunch or breakfast programs would have on school lunch debt;
8 and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
10 department be requested to report its findings to the
11 legislative education study committee by October 1, 2018; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
13 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public
14 education, the chair of the legislative education study
15 committee, the chair of the senate education committee and the
16 chair of the house education committee. _____

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