

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 16

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Michael Padilla and G. Andres Romero

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO IDENTIFY THE
12 AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE NEW
13 MEXICO SCHOOL MEALS, STUDENT HEALTH, PROGRAM FUNDING AND
14 TRAINING AND TO STUDY THE IMPACT THAT INCREASED APPLICATIONS
15 FOR FUNDING FROM FEDERAL SCHOOL LUNCH OR BREAKFAST PROGRAMS
16 COULD HAVE ON SCHOOL LUNCH DEBT.

17
18 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the
19 national school lunch program and the school breakfast program
20 have provided millions of healthy and nutritious meals to
21 schoolchildren throughout New Mexico for more than seventy
22 years; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico schools provide meals through the
24 following federal nutrition programs: the national school
25 lunch program, the school breakfast program, the fresh fruit

.209365.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 and vegetable program, the after school snack program and the
2 seamless summer program; and

3 WHEREAS, other federal school nutrition programs may be
4 available to New Mexico; and

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

9 WHEREAS, a student must complete a meal application to
10 receive free or reduced-fee meals from the national school
11 lunch program and the school breakfast program; and

12 WHEREAS, by federal law, if a school becomes aware that a
13 student who has not submitted a meal application is eligible
14 for free or reduced-fee meals, the school is authorized to
15 complete and file an application for the student; and

16 WHEREAS, if a student owes money for five or more meals,
17 procedures are in place to check a state list of students
18 eligible for free meals or to contact the student's parent or
19 guardian to have a meal application for the student filled out;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, if a student meal debt is written off as an
22 uncollectible bad debt, a school is required to repay the
23 operating loss from writing off the debt with non-federal
24 funds; and

25 WHEREAS, a missed application by the state for funding

.209365.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 from federal school lunch or breakfast programs may represent a
2 missed opportunity to help students and their families reduce
3 school lunch debt; and

4 WHEREAS, the percent of school lunch debt that could be
5 eliminated by filing meal applications for eligible students is
6 unknown;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
9 requested to identify the availability of additional federal
10 programs to improve New Mexico school meals, student health,
11 program funding and training; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
13 department be requested to include an analysis of the impact
14 that increased applications for funding from federal school
15 lunch or breakfast programs would have on school lunch debt;
16 and

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

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of public education,
22 the chair of the legislative education study committee, the
23 chair of the senate education committee and the chair of the
24 house education committee.