

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING JANUARY 24, 2019 "NEW MEXICO FOOD AND FARMS AND
3 SCHOOL NUTRITION DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4
5 WHEREAS, New Mexico has a vibrant food and farming
6 culture that is significant to the rural economy and provides
7 employment opportunities on farms, in direct, wholesale and
8 retail outlets and food processing, distribution and
9 value-added business; and

10 WHEREAS, studies have shown that for every one dollar
11 (\$1.00) that goes to local agricultural producers, one dollar
12 eighty cents (\$1.80) is circulated in the local economy; and

13 WHEREAS, if New Mexico consumers purchased only fifteen
14 percent of their food from the state's farmers and ranchers,
15 it would increase annual farm income by three hundred
16 ninety-two million dollars (\$392,000,000); and

17 WHEREAS, an investment in children's health will help
18 stem the rise in childhood obesity in New Mexico, where
19 thirty-two percent of children are overweight or obese; and

20 WHEREAS, school nutrition programs provided through the
21 national school lunch program, school breakfast program and
22 summer food service have provided millions of healthy and
23 nutritious meals to school children throughout New Mexico for
24 more than seventy years; and

25 WHEREAS, the school nutrition and summer meal programs

1 serve healthy meals, free and at low cost, to students in New
2 Mexico schools; and

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

6 WHEREAS, many children consume at least one-half of
7 their daily calories at school, and for many children, food
8 served at school is the only meal they eat daily; and

9 WHEREAS, increased investment from the legislature
10 enables schools to feature New Mexico-grown produce, meet
11 federal nutrition requirements, serve more fresh fruits and
12 vegetables to children and support economic development
13 opportunities for local farmers, entrepreneurs and
14 communities; and

15 WHEREAS, over the last six years, more than fifty-seven
16 school food authorities have purchased New Mexico-grown
17 produce for school meals with state funds, enhancing the
18 diets of three hundred thirty-three thousand three hundred
19 students, promoting healthier lifestyles and increasing
20 academic achievement, while close to two million dollars
21 (\$2,000,000) has benefitted New Mexico's farming economy; and

22 WHEREAS, seventy farmers' markets are providing New
23 Mexico products to forty-five thousand people each week in
24 thirty-one counties by direct sales and through the
25 supplemental nutrition assistance program, the special

1 supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and
2 children and senior farmers' market nutrition programs,
3 creating fresh food access for low-income individuals and
4 resulting in annual gross sales to farmers of over seven
5 million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) in 2018;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, eighty double up food bucks outlets, including
8 farmers' markets, grocery stores, farm stands and mobile
9 markets, are making it more affordable for supplemental
10 nutritional assistance program participants across the state
11 to increase the amount of fresh, New Mexico-grown produce
12 that they eat while providing nine hundred seventy New Mexico
13 farmers with more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in
14 electronic benefits transfer sales during 2018; and

15 WHEREAS, a healthier population will help to save the
16 state an additional three hundred twenty-four million dollars
17 (\$324,000,000) in obesity-related health care expenses and an
18 additional one billion two hundred million dollars
19 (\$1,200,000,000) in diabetes-related health care expenses;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, creating food hubs, produce processing and
22 distribution centers and community kitchens could accelerate
23 the economic growth of farmers and rural food entrepreneurs;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the growing number of New Mexico community and

1 school gardens provides an important way for children and
2 families to engage in growing food and provides a way for
3 children to learn about nutrition and life sciences; and

4 WHEREAS, to achieve these goals, agricultural, health
5 and education-related organizations and agencies help
6 coordinate programs and make the connections among health,
7 the built environment and policies through the support of
8 organizations such as food policy councils, health councils,
9 health equity partnerships, foodcorps, americorps, 4-H, farm
10 to school programs and others;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it recognize
13 that the time has come to invest in New Mexico's children,
14 economy and future; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that January 24, 2019 be declared
16 "New Mexico Food and Farms and School Nutrition Day" in the
17 house of representatives; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to the executive director of the New Mexico
20 farmers' marketing association. _____

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