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HOUSE MEMORIAL 15

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ENCOURAGE FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS THAT SELL CHILDREN'S MEALS TO OFFER HEALTHY BEVERAGE OPTIONS.

WHEREAS, as of July 2019, the United States census bureau reported that the population of New Mexico was two million ninety-six thousand eight hundred twenty-nine residents; and

WHEREAS, disparities exist for overall health across the United States, with roughly seventeen percent of the population reporting a health status of fair or poor; and

WHEREAS, health disparities among New Mexicans exceed this national average, with more than twenty percent of the population reporting a health status of fair or poor; and

WHEREAS, the health disparities in New Mexico are greater among Hispanics, Black or African Americans and American

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1 Indians; and

2 WHEREAS, approximately eleven percent of New Mexicans have
3 been diagnosed with diabetes; and

4 WHEREAS, diabetes was the sixth-leading cause of death
5 overall in New Mexico in 2016; and

6 WHEREAS, in the same year, diabetes-related deaths were
7 reported in higher rates for Asian and Pacific Islanders,
8 Hispanics and American Indians and Black and African Americans,
9 exceeding the rates among Caucasian New Mexicans; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico has the highest percentage of child
11 poverty of any state, with twenty-nine percent living in
12 poverty; and

13 WHEREAS, approximately eighteen percent of all New Mexico
14 households were food insecure in 2019; and

15 WHEREAS, a child who lives in a food-insecure household is
16 five times more likely to develop childhood obesity than a
17 child who lives in a food-secure household; and

18 WHEREAS, in 2017 and 2018, thirty-two percent of New
19 Mexico teens were overweight or obese, surpassing the national
20 average; and

21 WHEREAS, rates of overweight or obese status in children
22 continue to remain high across grades, genders, races and
23 ethnicities; and

24 WHEREAS, the standard children's meal sold at a fast food
25 establishment includes food items and a beverage, sold together

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1 at a single price; and

2 WHEREAS, sugar-laden beverages are associated with
3 occurrences of obesity, type two diabetes and heart disease,
4 among other conditions; and

5 WHEREAS, a default beverage is the beverage that is
6 automatically included or offered as a part of a children's
7 meal, absent a specific request by the purchaser for an
8 alternative; and

9 WHEREAS, a healthy default beverage option in a children's
10 meal includes water; beverages with no added or artificial
11 sweeteners; nonfat or one-percent milk or nondairy alternatives
12 in a serving size containing no more than eight ounces; or one-
13 hundred-percent juice or fruit juice combined with water or
14 carbonated water in a serving size of no more than six ounces;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the department of health encourages state and
17 local agency collaboration to implement sustainable obesity
18 prevention initiatives, including increased opportunities for
19 healthy eating and physical activity among preschool-age and
20 elementary school-age children; and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico restaurant association is working
22 with the American diabetes association to encourage restaurants
23 to provide healthy drink choices for children's meals;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that food

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1 establishments be encouraged to sell children's meals that
2 include healthy beverage options; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the diabetes prevention and
4 control program of the department of health be requested to
5 engage in marketing to restaurants regarding the importance of
6 providing healthy beverage options in children's meals; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the diabetes prevention and
8 control program of the department of health be requested to
9 present to the interim legislative health and human services
10 committee by December 1, 2022; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the diabetes prevention and control program of
13 the department of health.

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