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SENATE MEMORIAL 10

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

INTRODUCED BY

Nancy Rodriguez

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY REPACKAGING SCHOOL MEALS FOR DONATION TO STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's children have the highest rate in the United States of food insecurity, which is limited or uncertain access to nutritionally adequate food necessary for an active and healthy life; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that children who live in households experiencing food insecurity are more likely to exhibit behavioral, emotional and academic problems in school, resulting in school suspension, repeating a grade, poor engagement with their studies, referrals to a psychologist, difficulty getting along with other children, aggression, anxiety and lower arithmetic scores; and

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1           WHEREAS, children who eat regular nutritious meals during  
2 childhood receive immediate benefits in health, well-being and  
3 academic performance as well as improved outcomes in overall  
4 health and reduced risk of chronic disease later in life; and

5           WHEREAS, approximately thirty-one percent of the overall  
6 food supply is wasted in the United States; and

7           WHEREAS, in 2015, the United States department of  
8 agriculture and the United States environmental protection  
9 agency set a national food waste reduction goal of fifty  
10 percent by 2030; and

11           WHEREAS, food insecurity among children and food waste can  
12 both be alleviated by repackaging food that would normally be  
13 wasted in school cafeterias and sending that food home with  
14 students; and

15           WHEREAS, the benefits of recovering food that would  
16 normally be wasted include the ability to donate that food to  
17 people experiencing food insecurity, the elimination of costs  
18 and resource consumption associated with food production,  
19 processing and distribution and the reduction of the  
20 environmental impact of food waste being transported to  
21 landfills where it emits methane, a potent greenhouse gas;

22           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be requested  
24 to convene a working group no later than June 1, 2020 to  
25 develop recommendations for repackaging school meals for

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1 donation to students; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed  
3 of representatives from the public education department,  
4 department of environment, department of health, human services  
5 department, children, youth and families department and  
6 appropriate nongovernmental organizations; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested  
8 to study food insecurity, food waste, benefits of proper  
9 nutrition for a child's education, food donation and how other  
10 states have addressed food waste and food insecurity in  
11 schools; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested  
13 to report its findings and conclusions to the appropriate  
14 interim legislative committee by November 1, 2020; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the public education department, department of  
17 environment, department of health, human services department,  
18 children, youth, and families department and appropriate  
19 nongovernmental organizations.

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