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HOUSE MEMORIAL 65

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Joanne J. Ferrary and Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and
Karen C. Bash and Rebecca Dow and Anthony Allison

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING MARCH 5, 2019 AS "END HUNGER DAY" IN THE NEW MEXICO
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, the 2018 "map the meal gap" report from the
national anti-hunger organization feeding America indicates
that twenty-six percent of children, or one hundred twenty-five
thousand two hundred ten children, are at risk of hunger in New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of agriculture
research service ranks New Mexico sixth-highest among the
states with the most people experiencing hunger; and

WHEREAS, the map the meal gap report also shows that
hunger is getting worse in New Mexico: the overall hunger rate
in New Mexico is seventeen percent, an increase from 2017's
rate of sixteen percent; and

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1 WHEREAS, hunger is directly linked to poverty; and

2 WHEREAS, the 2018 annual KIDS COUNT report compiled by the
3 Annie E. Casey foundation found that seventeen percent of New
4 Mexico children struggle with food insecurity; and

5 WHEREAS, the 2018 KIDS COUNT report ranks New Mexico, with
6 twenty-seven percent of children living in poverty, among the
7 states with the worst rates of child poverty; and

8 WHEREAS, the center for American progress reports that
9 four hundred one thousand seven hundred fifty-five New
10 Mexicans, or nearly one in five state residents, were living in
11 poverty in 2017; and

12 WHEREAS, although there are a number of public and private
13 programs that seek to address issues relating to hunger in New
14 Mexico, many of these programs are "siloed", and there is
15 little systematic communication among these programs; and

16 WHEREAS, there is a need for a single, statewide plan
17 among policymakers, agencies and organizations for ending
18 hunger in New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, at the request of the house of representatives,
20 pursuant to 2018's House Memorial 90, a multidisciplinary,
21 multi-stakeholder "hunger council" made up of legislators,
22 state and local government agency representatives and experts
23 in hunger and poverty policy has been meeting to develop a
24 single statewide plan for ending hunger in New Mexico;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF

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1 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Tuesday, March
2 5, 2019, be declared "End Hunger Day" in the house of
3 representatives; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the hunger council be
5 requested to continue its work on a single, statewide plan for
6 ending hunger in New Mexico; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the New Mexico
8 legislature be requested to form a "hunger caucus" to support
9 legislation aimed at ending hunger in New Mexico; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of human services,
12 the secretary of aging and long-term services, the secretary of
13 children, youth and families and the convener of the hunger
14 council.