A MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO PROCLAIM SEPTEMBER 19 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 23, 2016, "MALNUTRITION AWARENESS WEEK" IN NEW
MEXICO.

WHEREAS, malnutrition awareness week is taking place
nationally from September 19 through September 23, 2016; and
WHEREAS, the observance of malnutrition awareness week
was first established in 2012 by the American society for
parenteral and enteral nutrition, also known as "A.S.P.E.N."; and
WHEREAS, A.S.P.E.N. has played a leading role in drawing
attention to malnutrition, understanding that awareness is an
important step toward treating the condition; and
WHEREAS, A.S.P.E.N. defines malnutrition as an "acute,
subacute or chronic state of poor nutrition", and it can be
the result of either inadequate or unbalanced nutrition; and
WHEREAS, even overweight individuals can be malnourished
if they are not receiving proper nutrients; and
WHEREAS, malnutrition can cause the loss of lean body
mass, and that loss can affect recovery from surgery, illness
or disease; and
WHEREAS, malnutrition is particularly prevalent in
vulnerable groups such as older adults, hospital patients and
minority populations; and
WHEREAS, statistics show higher incidences of such severe chronic diseases as diabetes, kidney disease and cardiovascular disease among individuals who are malnourished; and

WHEREAS, many health experts agree that the quality of nutrition has a direct impact on an individual's health and that good nutrition can reduce medical costs by helping to keep people healthy and out of institutionalized care; and

WHEREAS, two important tools in combating malnutrition are nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition, through which individuals at risk are administered food and fluids to support their metabolism; and

WHEREAS, the benefits of nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition are myriad, yet they are not routine practices across the spectrum of health care; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico academy of nutrition and dietetics considers access to nutritional screening and therapeutic nutrition essential to restoring lean body mass, improving clinical outcomes, reducing health care costs and promoting good health; and

WHEREAS, by gaining a more thorough understanding of malnutrition, New Mexico residents are able to better safeguard their health and to seek effective treatments; and

WHEREAS, all those involved in sharing information about malnutrition are deserving of support;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO THAT the governor be requested to proclaim September 19 through September 23, 2016, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week" in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the governor and the chief executive officer of the American society of parenteral and enteral nutrition.