

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 5—Assemblymen Leslie, McClain, Anderson, Parks, Atkinson, Buckley, Denis, Giunchigliani, Horne, Koivisto, Manendo, Parnell, Pierce and Smith

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging school districts in Nevada to participate in the federally funded School Breakfast Program.

WHEREAS, The School Breakfast Program is a fully funded federal program which has been available to all school districts since 1966 and which provides cash subsidies from the United States Department of Agriculture to schools that participate; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 132,000 children attending schools in Nevada who are eligible for a free or reduced-price breakfast through the Program because of the level of their family income; and

WHEREAS, Of those children who qualify, fewer than 40,000 currently receive a free or reduced-price breakfast at school, leaving more than 92,000 eligible children who may not eat their first meal of the day until lunchtime; and

WHEREAS, There are 83 schools in Nevada that do not offer the School Breakfast Program to any of the children enrolled in their school; and

WHEREAS, School districts in this State currently receive \$8,844,236 annually in federal money for the School Breakfast Program; and

WHEREAS, If each school district in Nevada provided breakfast to all income-eligible children who qualify for a free or reduced-price breakfast, approximately \$14,108,618 would be generated each year into the economy of the State; and

WHEREAS, While the residents of the State of Nevada pay taxes to the Federal Government to fund this type of entitlement program, they do not fully benefit from that fiscal investment because nonparticipating or under-participating schools do not receive those tax dollars back in the form of funding for the School Breakfast Program; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's workforce is negatively impacted by generations of school children who have not received the benefits of a nutritious breakfast; and

WHEREAS, Research proves that the health benefits of eating breakfast include fewer student illnesses, fewer sick days, fewer visits to the school nurse and increased ability to concentrate during the critical morning hours of instruction; and

WHEREAS, It is a well-established fact that students who come to school hungry cannot fully benefit from their educational experience and are therefore unnecessarily "left behind," even though these same schools are already providing school lunches; and

WHEREAS, Among the verified educational benefits of a nutritious breakfast are increased test scores, less tardiness, fewer suspensions, increased alertness and a greater level of classroom participation by students; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the obvious nutritional benefits, the appropriate modeling by schools of nutritious meals could, in turn, decrease the current dramatic rise in childhood obesity; and

WHEREAS, These economic, health, educational and nutritional benefits are further enhanced when one considers that the parents of these children must be at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level to qualify for a free breakfast and between 130 and 185 percent of the federal poverty level to receive a reduced-price breakfast, and the consistent provision of breakfast at school would allow these parents to redirect their limited resources toward other key necessities such as shelter, medical assistance and gasoline; and

WHEREAS, Because mornings are often too rushed for breakfast, parents who are not as economically stressed could also take advantage of this nutrition program by paying for their children to eat breakfast at school, thus making the School Breakfast Program a benefit to all of Nevada's school children; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature hereby strongly encourages the school districts in this State to:

1. Offer school breakfast in every school in Nevada that has a population of over 100 students; and

2. Increase the number of students participating in the School Breakfast Program in Nevada by 15 percent by the end of the year 2005 and by another 15 percent by the end of the year 2006 so that the statewide participation would effectively become 40 percent of those students who are qualified for free and reduced-price breakfasts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That each school district is requested to submit a written, detailed progress report to the Assembly Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education, the Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee in the first month of the 74th Legislative Session so that each committee can be assured that no child is being denied the entitlement to a nutritious breakfast at school; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public

Instruction and to the superintendent of schools of each school district in the State of Nevada.

