

**FRIENDS OF THE SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR  
WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)  
c/o National WIC Association**

March 2021

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned national, state, and local organizations concerned with the health and wellbeing of new and expectant parents, infants, and young children, we write in strong support of the Wise Investment in our Children Act (WIC Act). This bipartisan legislation is a critical step toward resolving nutrition gaps and assuring continued access to the vital services provided by the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), paving the way for a healthier next generation.

**WIC is a strong investment in our country's future.** WIC serves approximately 6.3 million pregnant and postpartum individuals, infants, and young children up to age five. For nearly fifty years, WIC has contributed to healthier pregnancies, improved birth outcomes for low-income women and infants, and healthier growth and development for young children. WIC's nutrition interventions reduce the likelihood of preterm birth, low birthweight, infant mortality, birth defects like spina bifida, and childhood obesity. WIC's access to healthy foods provides families with a greater variety and nutritional quality in their diets. WIC is a down payment on the next generation, a proven and cost-effective program that more than doubles the return on initial investment in medical, educational, and productivity cost-savings.

The WIC Act includes three critical provisions to address existing nutrition gaps – for young children, infants, and new mothers.

**The WIC Act would address a crucial gap in nutrition assistance for young children by extending WIC eligibility through age six or the beginning of kindergarten.** About half of children entering kindergarten start school after the age of five-and-a-half, whereas children currently lose access to WIC on their fifth birthday. During a critical period of growth, young children need continued and targeted nutrition support to ensure healthy diets, building the foundation for a healthy lifespan and reducing the risk of childhood obesity. The WIC Act would ensure that all children who are income-qualified can make a seamless transition between WIC and school lunch, sustaining WIC's nutritional support during a period of development that could determine a child's educational and future success.

**The WIC Act would reduce administrative barriers for families as infant diets develop.** The WIC Act would extend certification periods for infants to two years instead of one year, eliminating duplicative paperwork and encouraging families to continue to connect their children with WIC's nutrition supports. Currently, there is a 21 percent drop in the share of eligible one-year olds accessing the programs compared to participating infants. The burdensome one-year certification requirement is an unnecessary barrier to participant access, deterring parents from continuing to obtain nutrition support on behalf of their children at a time of transition in the child's diets.

**The WIC Act would help to address the crisis of maternal mortality.** The WIC Act would extend eligibility for postpartum women to two years, building upon the program's nutrition support and efforts to improve diets. Medical professionals recognize that good maternal health and diet prior to pregnancy is of vital importance to improving health outcomes for both the mother and infants.

Increased eligibility for postpartum women can sustain and advance diet and nutrition outcomes during the inter-pregnancy interval, improving health outcomes in subsequent pregnancies.

**The WIC Act is a critical step to strengthening WIC's ability to improve maternal and child health.** WIC successfully serves approximately half of all infants born in the United States, and these additional steps to expand eligibility and reduce administrative barriers will ensure that the next generation is healthier and more productive. We urge you to co-sponsor this legislation and actively champion its passage through Congress.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

National WIC Association  
1,000 Days  
A Better Balance  
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  
Alliance to End Hunger  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees  
American Heart Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Nutrition  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials  
Association of State Public Health Nutritionists  
Bread for the World  
CAI Global  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Science in the Public Interest  
Child Care Aware® of America  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's HealthWatch  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Feeding America  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)  
Hunger Free America Inc.  
March of Dimes  
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger  
Mom Congress  
MomsRising  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Nurse-Family Partnership

Partnership for American's Children  
RESULTS  
Save the Children Action Network (SCAN)  
Share Our Strength  
SimpliFed  
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior  
Trust for America's Health  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United States Breastfeeding Committee  
ZERO TO THREE

### **State Organizations**

Arizona Local Agency WIC Association  
California WIC Association  
Children's Advocacy Alliance  
Hunger Solutions NY  
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition  
Maine Children's Alliance  
Massachusetts Association of WIC Directors  
Michigan WIC Association  
Montana Association of WIC Agencies  
Montana Food Bank Network  
Nebraska WIC Association  
NH Hunger Solutions  
New Hampshire Food Bank  
New Hampshire Public Health Association  
New Mexico Breastfeeding Task Force  
Nutrition First Washington  
Our Children Oregon  
Pennsylvania WIC Association  
WIC Association of Maryland  
WIC Association of NYS, Inc.  
Wisconsin WIC Association  
Voices for Vermont's Children

### **Local WIC Providers and Organizations**

Norton Sound Health Corporation WIC, AK  
Gila County WIC, AZ  
Native Health/ITCA, AZ  
Alameda County WIC, CA  
Alliance Medical Center WIC, CA  
Antelope Valley Healthcare District WIC Program, CA  
Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo Inc., CA  
Community Action Partnership of Kern, CA  
Community Bridges, CA  
Community Medical Centers, Inc. WIC, CA  
County of Humboldt WIC Program, CA

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, CA  
Humboldt County WIC, CA  
Indian Health Center of Santa Clara Valley, CA  
Madera County Public Health Department WIC, CA  
Mono County WIC, CA  
Native American Health Center, CA  
Northeast Valley Health Corporation, CA  
PHFE WIC, CA  
PPOSBC, CA  
San Francisco Department of Public Health, CA  
San Mateo County WIC Program, CA  
Siskiyou County WIC Program, CA  
South Los Angeles Health Projects WIC Program, CA  
The Resource Connection WIC, CA  
TrueCare WIC Program, CA  
Tulare County HHS WIC Program, CA  
United Indian Health Services, Inc., CA  
Ventura County WIC Program, CA  
Ventura County WIC Program, CA  
Watts Healthcare Corporation, CA  
Eagle County WIC, CO  
Jefferson County Public Health, CO  
Kit Carson County Public Health and Environment, CO  
Marimn Health, CO  
Northeast Colorado Health Department, CO  
Pueblo WIC Office, CO  
San Juan Basin Public Health, CO  
Teller County Public Health and Environment, CO  
Tri-County Health Department, CO  
Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc., CO  
Day Kimball Hospital WIC, CT  
Middlesex Health Middletown WIC, CT  
Optimus Health Care WIC Program, CT  
Yale New Haven Hospital WIC Program, CT  
DC WIC, DC  
Florida Department of Health, FL  
Panhandle Health District, ID  
Allen County WIC, IN  
Elkhart County WIC Program IN  
Marion County Public Health Department WIC, IN  
Neighborhood Health, IN  
Polk and Dallas County WIC Program, IA  
Wyandotte County WIC Program, KS  
Haskell County Health Department, KS  
Western Maine Community Action WIC, ME  
CCI Health & Wellness Services-WIC Program, MD  
Community Clinic- WIC, MD  
Johns Hopkins University WIC, MD  
Maryland WIC Program, MD  
Community Action Pioneer Valley, MA

COMMUNITY TEAMWORK, MA  
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc., MA  
North Suburban WIC Program, MA  
Northern Essex WIC Program, MA  
Quincy WIC Program/Bamsi, MA  
WIC Framingham/Waltham, MA  
Bay County Health Department WIC, MI  
BEDHC WIC, MI  
Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department, MI  
Calhoun County Public HD-WIC, MI  
Central Michigan District Health Department, MI  
Chippewa County Health Department, MI  
District Health Department No. 2, MI  
District Health Department No. 4, MI  
District Health Department No. 10, MI  
Grand Traverse County WIC, MI  
Great Lakes Bay Health Centers, MI  
Huron County Health Department, MI  
Ingham County WIC Program, MI  
InterCare Community Health Network, MI  
Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services WIC, MI  
KBIC WIC, MI  
Livingston County WIC Program, MI  
LMAS District Health Department, MI  
Macomb County Health Department WIC Program, MI  
Marquette Co Health Department, MI  
Mid Michigan Community Action, MI  
Mid-Michigan District Health Department, MI  
Shiawassee County Health Department WIC Program, MI  
State of Michigan DHHS WIC, MI  
Washtenaw County WIC, MI  
Wayne County Public Health, MI  
Bloomington Public Health, MN  
St. Louis County, MN  
Christian County Health Department, MO  
Christian County WIC, MO  
Crescent Clinic WIC, MO  
Family Care Health Centers, MO  
Lafayette County WIC, MO  
People's Health Centers WIC Program, MO  
Pettis County Health Center, MO  
Samuel U Rodgers Health Center, MO  
Washington County Health Department, MO  
Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribe WIC, MT  
District 6 HRDC, MT  
Hill County WIC, MT  
Ravalli County WIC, MT  
Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska, NE  
Family Health Services WIC, NE  
Family Service Lincoln, NE

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, NV  
Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties, Inc., NH  
Greater Nashua Food Council, NH  
Greater Seacoast Community Health, NH  
Partnership for Public Health, NH  
Public Health Council of the Upper Valley, NH  
Seacoast Eat Local, NH  
SHARE Fund Inc., NH  
VNAHG, NJ  
Children and Family Health Institute, NJ  
Brownsville Multi-Service Family Center, NY  
Broome County WIC, NY  
Catholic Charities of Columbia and Greene Counties, NY  
Catholic Charities of L.I., NY  
Catholic Charities of Buffalo WIC Program, NY  
Cattaraugus County WIC, NY  
Community Health Center of the North Country, NY  
Cornerstone Family Healthcare WIC Program, NY  
Early Care & Learning Council, NY  
Eastside WIC Program, NY  
EHC WIC Program, NY  
Essex County Women, Infants and Children Program, NY  
Greater Opportunities, NY  
Hamilton County WIC, NY  
LIFQHC WIC, NY  
LifeWorks Community Action, NY  
Livingston-Wyoming WIC, NY  
Mohawk Valley CAA, NY  
Montefiore New Rochelle WIC Program, NY  
Morrissania WIC Program, NY  
Monroe County Department of Health WIC, NY  
Morris Heights Health Center, NY  
NYC H+H Elmhurst WIC Program, NY  
NYC H+H Woodhull WIC Program, NY  
OCO, Inc. WIC Program, NY  
Opportunities for Otsego, Inc., NY  
Prevent Child Abuse, NY  
Ryan Health WIC, NY  
Society for the Protection & Care of Children, NY  
St. Barnabas WIC Program, NY  
The Children's Agenda, NY  
Tioga Opportunities, Inc. WIC Program, NY  
Washington County WIC, NY  
Westchester Children's Association, NY  
Cleveland County WIC Program, NC  
Forsyth County WIC, NC  
Mecklenburg County Public Health WIC, NC  
Montgomery County Department of Health – WIC, NC  
Pender County Health Department WIC Program, NC  
Grand Forks County WIC, ND

Lake Region WIC, ND  
Walsh County WIC, ND  
WIC Program, FDHU, MAFBB, ND  
Allen County WIC Program, OH  
Sandusky County WIC, OH  
WIC 8500, OH  
Citizen Potawatomi Nation WIC Program, OK  
Community Health Services, Inc. WIC Program, PA  
The Foundation for Delaware County, PA  
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC  
Abilene-Taylor County WIC Program, TX  
CHRISTUS Santa Rosa WIC, TX  
UT Health WIC, TX  
Wellness Pointe WIC, TX  
Vida Y Salud Health System, Inc. / WIC, TX  
Utah County WIC Program, UT  
Little Rivers Health Care, VT  
Vermont WIC Program, VT  
Upper Valley Haven, Inc., VT  
CHI Franciscan WIC, WA  
Columbia Valley Community Health WIC, WA  
Mattawa Community Medical Clinic WIC, WA  
Odessa Brown Children's Clinic, WA  
Public Health Seattle & King County, WA  
Sea Mar Community Health Centers, WA  
Walla Walla County Department of Community Health, WA  
Whitman County Public Health, WA  
Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic, WA  
MOV WIC, WV  
Randolph Elkins Health Dept. WIC Program, WV  
TSN WIC Program, WV  
Shenandoah WIC, WV  
Valley Health Systems, Inc. - WIC Program, WV  
Columbia County WIC Program, WI  
Dodge County WIC, WI  
Fond du Lac County WIC, WI  
Rusk County WIC, WI  
Stockbridge Munsee Band of Mohican Indians, WI  
Washburn County WIC, WI  
Albany County WIC, WY  
Carbon County WIC, WY