



THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



September 28, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Murray, Vice Chair Collins, Chair Granger, and Ranking Member DeLauro,

As a coalition of membership organizations representing state legislatures, counties, cities and local human service agencies, we are writing to urge Congress to continue its longstanding bipartisan commitment to ensuring that the WIC program is funded at levels that provide eligible low-income pregnant and nursing woman, and children up to age 5 with vital nutrition assistance.

The uncertainty over current budget negotiations and additional funding needed to bolster the WIC program is creating a precarious situation for states who are faced with the possibility of needing to curtail enrollment and create waiting lists for WIC benefits now-- out of concerns about shortfalls later in the year. At best, such a result will cause significant disruptions to state agencies administering WIC, and at worst, has the potential to cause negative health outcomes for at risk families.

A fully funded WIC program has been linked to improvements in childhood diets, health outcomes, cognitive development, school readiness, access to medical care and reductions in infant mortality. While we are mindful of increased program costs due to growth in enrollment, rising food costs and the enhanced benefit amount for fruits and vegetables (consistent with [recommendations](#) from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine), WIC remains an efficient source of supplemental

nutrition assistance, with some [estimates](#) putting overall spending per WIC participant food costs far below increases in overall food costs—13% versus 29% respectively.

We urge Congress to act swiftly and in the spirit of the last 25 years of bipartisan support for the WIC program to provide stability to state agencies administering WIC programs and funding that ensures uninterrupted access to food assistance for all eligible families.

Should you have questions or need further information, please contact Lauren Kallins at Lauren.Kallins@ncsl.org.

Sincerely,



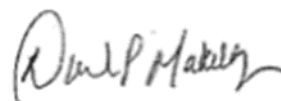
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Chief Executive Officer
National Conference of State Legislatures



Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of Counties



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO & Executive Director
National League of Cities



Dan Makelky
President
National Association of County
Human Services Administrators



Tom Cochran
CEO & Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors

Cc:

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Senator John Boozman
Senator Katie Britt
Senator Shelley Capito
Senator Christopher Coons

Representative Robert Aderholt
Representative Peter Aguilar
Representative Mark Amodei
Representative Stephanie Bice
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