

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 65

To express the sense of Congress that any health care reform legislation passed by Congress include guaranteed full funding for the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC) so that all eligible women, infants, and children who apply could be served by the end of fiscal year 1996 and full funding could be maintained through fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 24 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 22), 1994

Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. JEFFORDS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of Congress that any health care reform legislation passed by Congress include guaranteed full funding for the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC) so that all eligible women, infants, and children who apply could be served by the end of fiscal year 1996 and full funding could be maintained through fiscal year 2000, and for other purposes.

Whereas the special supplemental food program for women, infants, and children (WIC) established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786)

saves medical costs by preventing low birth weight, reducing anemia, and increasing immunizations;

Whereas a study conducted by the General Accounting Office concluded that WIC reduces the incidence of very low birth weight by 44 percent;

Whereas a 1993 study conducted by the Secretary of Agriculture found that savings attributable to WIC, due to the reduction of very low birth weight, ranged from \$2,300,000 in Florida to \$4,500,000 in North Carolina in reduced medical assistance costs under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.);

Whereas a study released by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1991 demonstrated that for each dollar spent on a pregnant woman under the WIC program, the associated savings in medical assistance costs for illnesses beginning in the first 60 days after birth ranged from \$1.92 to \$4.21 for newborns and mothers and from \$2.98 to \$4.75 for newborns only;

Whereas a study conducted by the General Accounting Office found that WIC benefits provided to all eligible pregnant women would more than pay for themselves in 1 year and would avert more than \$1,000,000,000 in health-related costs over an 18-year period;

Whereas the WIC program reduces iron deficiency anemia, which affects nearly 25 percent of poor children in the United States and is associated with impaired cognitive development and increases in the risk of lead poisoning;

Whereas the WIC program reduces fetal death and infant mortality;

Whereas the United States ranks below 20 other countries in infant mortality rates and behind 73 other countries in percentage of infants born at low birth weight;

Whereas the Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty, and Nutrition Policy found that even short-term undernutrition jeopardizes the physical health, brain development, and cognitive functioning of young children;

Whereas 4- and 5-year olds whose mothers participated in the WIC program during pregnancy demonstrate higher vocabulary test scores, and children who participated in the WIC program after the 1st birthday of the children score higher on memory tests;

Whereas in 1991 corporate executive officers of 5 major corporations testified at a congressional hearing about the need to fully fund the WIC program by 1996 and concluded that “each pregnant woman, infant, and child who could benefit from WIC but is left out of the program represents a potential drain on budgetary outlays in subsequent years and on our Nation’s future economic growth, not to mention a tragic loss in human potential”;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 women, infants, and children are eligible but are not currently served by the WIC program; and

Whereas 1994 is the 20th anniversary of the WIC program:
Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This resolution may be cited as the “A Child is Wait-
5 ing Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FULL FUNDING FOR WIC**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) any health care reform legislation passed by
5 Congress include guaranteed full funding for the
6 special supplemental food program for women, in-
7 fants, and children (WIC) established under section
8 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
9 1786) so that all eligible women, infants, and chil-
10 dren who apply could be served by the end of fiscal
11 year 1996 and full funding could be maintained
12 through fiscal year 2000; and

13 (2) at least \$3,564,000,000, should be made
14 available for fiscal year 1995 to move toward the full
15 funding goal described in paragraph (1).

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