

100TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. J. RES. 99

To express the sense of the Congress that the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children should receive increasing amounts of appropriations in fiscal year 1988 and succeeding fiscal years.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19 (legislative day, MARCH 17), 1987

Mr. DECONCINI (for himself, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. SIMON) introduced the following joint resolution; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations

JOINT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Congress that the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children should receive increasing amounts of appropriations in fiscal year 1988 and succeeding fiscal years.

Whereas the One Hundredth Congress wishes to assure a healthy, productive citizenry;

Whereas children are especially vulnerable to the effects of malnutrition;

Whereas thirteen million children live in poverty;

Whereas children have been the fastest growing component of the poverty population;

Whereas the number of young children living in poverty has increased 41.2 per centum between 1979 and 1985;

Whereas at no time in life is the need for good nutrition and adequate health care as critical as during pregnancy when the fetus is developing and during the initial years of the life of a child;

Whereas malnutrition causes a body to be more prone to illness and a mind to be less able to develop to its capacity;

Whereas malnutrition in early childhood may lead in the extreme to death or mental and physical retardation;

Whereas the infant mortality rate of the United States is unacceptably high;

Whereas sixteen other industrialized countries have a lower infant mortality rate than that of the United States;

Whereas the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has been proven to have a major impact in reducing the incidence of low-weight births and late fetal deaths;

Whereas the WIC Program decreases the rate of premature births, increases the proportion of poor pregnant women seeking prenatal care, increases head circumference of infants born to women who receive benefits under the WIC Program during their pregnancies, improves diets for women, infants, and children, and reduces the incidence of anemia among women, infants, and children who are nutritionally at risk because of poverty;

Whereas the WIC Program was proven to be cost-effective by a Harvard University School of Public Health study which indicated that every one dollar spent on the prenatal component of the WIC Program potentially saves three dollars in later health care costs;

Whereas benefits afforded to participants under the WIC Program result in significantly reduced health care costs and related costs incurred at the Federal, State and local levels; and

Whereas over half of the women, infants, and children eligible for benefits under the WIC Program cannot now be served because of insufficient funds: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This joint resolution may be cited as the "WIC Food for
5 Life Resolution".

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO WIC**
7 **APPROPRIATION.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 (1) the WIC Program should receive appropria-
10 tions—

11 (A) for fiscal year 1988 in an amount suffi-
12 cient to enable not less than three hundred thou-
13 sand more eligible women, infants, and children to
14 be served each month than were served in fiscal
15 year 1987;

16 (B) for fiscal year 1989 in an amount suffi-
17 cient to enable not less than 55 per centum of eli-
18 gible women, infants, and children to be served;

1 (C) for fiscal year 1990 in an amount suffi-
2 cient to enable not less than 60 per centum of eli-
3 gible women, infants, and children to be served;

4 (D) for fiscal year 1991 in an amount suffi-
5 cient to enable not less than 65 per centum of eli-
6 gible women, infants, and children to be served;

7 and

8 (2) that appropriations for the WIC Program
9 should continue to be increased for each succeeding
10 fiscal year until all eligible persons are being served;

11 (3) that the budget resolution for fiscal year 1988
12 should assume the appropriation of the amounts neces-
13 sary to meet the goals described in paragraph (1); and

14 (4) that an effective outreach program should be
15 conducted to identify women, infants, and children that
16 are eligible for benefits under the WIC Program.

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