

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

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 4, 2019

Dear Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write to express our enthusiastic support for the passage of the Community Access, Resources, and Education for Families (CARE for Families) Act, sponsored by Representatives Alma Adams, Lauren Underwood, and Bobby Scott. This legislation would invest in community health partnerships led by the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), enhancing the program's powerful public health imprint.

The CARE for Families Act ensures that WIC has dedicated funding to enhance collaboration and linkages with healthcare providers and other social services. WIC is a key point-of-contact during a critical time of growth and development, and WIC's health screenings are effective at connecting families with medical and dental care, tobacco cessation and substance use prevention, and immunizations. Pediatricians and other healthcare providers are crucial partners in assuring healthy growth and development of infants and young children, and WIC projects that enhance collaboration with healthcare providers will streamline services and expand access to care. Connecting pregnant women and new mothers to healthcare services is absolutely essential in addressing the persistently high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, and increased collaboration between WIC and healthcare providers can enhance prevention efforts, especially during the pivotal postpartum period.

WIC works in tandem with healthcare providers and other services to advance quality nutrition and positive development for pregnant women, moms, infants, and young children. This legislation is a smart investment in building the community health partnerships that sustain WIC's public health nutrition success. We thank you for the Committee's consideration of this Act and urge swift passage of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Advocates for Better Children's Diets
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Heart Association
American Public Health Association
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Science in the Public Interest

Child Care Aware® of America
Children's Dental Health Project
Children's HealthWatch
Coalition on Human Needs
First Focus Campaign for Children
Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
March of Dimes
MomsRising
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National WIC Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Nurse-Family Partnership
Share Our Strength – No Kid Hungry
Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior
Trust for America's Health
U.S. Breastfeeding Committee
ZERO TO THREE