

November 8, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the American Academy of Pediatrics, a non-profit professional organization of 67,000 pediatricians dedicated to the health and well-being of all children and 57 AAP state chapters, we write to strongly urge you to include additional resources in any funding package to ensure that WIC can continue providing all eligible women, infants, and children who seek to participate with the full, science-based nutrition benefit.

Pediatricians consistently refer families to the WIC program because we know that WIC works. In addition to receiving nutritious foods, children who receive WIC have improved birth outcomes, increased rates of immunization, and better access to health care through a medical home. We know that WIC has been shown to result in immediate healthcare cost savings and sets the trajectory for a healthier next generation. While we have been pleased to see participation in WIC rising—a goal of our organizations for years—this means that the program needs additional funding in order to serve all eligible families and provide the full food package.

Roughly thirty years ago, the failure by Congress to fully fund WIC led to widespread waitlists. We simply cannot allow that to happen again. No eligible woman, infant, or child should miss out on the nutritious foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to health care and social services that WIC provides.

Congress made an important investment in the health of women and children by increasing the value of WIC's fruit and vegetable vouchers. As pediatricians, we know that most kids aren't eating as many fruits and vegetables as they should. In fact, studies have found that only approximately 30% of preschoolers meet the 5-a-day recommendations for vegetables and fruits. The increased WIC fruit and vegetable voucher has resulted in rapid and measurable increases in fruit and vegetable consumption and it is at risk should Congress fail to increase funding for WIC in the next government funding package.

The WIC program has proven effective at reducing obesity in young children and it played a vital role for families during the infant formula shortage crisis. We cannot afford to put WIC at risk for families with young children. We strongly urge you to include increased funding for WIC in the next funding package so that the program can continue providing all eligible women, infants, and children who seek to participate with the full food package.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics

Alabama
Alabama Chapter-American Academy of Pediatrics

Alaska
Alaska Chapter, AAP

Arizona

Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Arkansas

Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

California

American Academy of Pediatrics – Orange County Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3

American Academy of Pediatrics, California

California Chapter 1, American Academy of Pediatrics

Colorado

American Academy of Pediatrics, Colorado Chapter

Connecticut

Hezekiah Beardsley Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Delaware

Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

District of Columbia

American Academy of Pediatrics, DC Chapter

Florida

Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Georgia

Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Hawaii

American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter

Idaho

Idaho Chapter of the AAP

Illinois

Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Indiana

Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Iowa

Iowa Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics

Kansas

Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Kentucky

Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Louisiana

Louisiana AAP

Maine

Maine Chapter, AAP

Maryland

Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Michigan

Michigan Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics

Minnesota

Minnesota Chapter, AAP (MNAAP)

Mississippi

Mississippi Chapter, AAP

Missouri

Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Montana

Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Nebraska

Nebraska Chapter AAP

Nevada

Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

New Jersey

New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP)

New Mexico

New Mexico Pediatric Society

New York

American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 1
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 2
American Academy of Pediatrics New York Chapter 3

North Carolina

NC Pediatric Society

North Dakota

North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Ohio

Ohio Chapter, AAP

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Oregon

Oregon Pediatric Society

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Chapter, AAP

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico AAP Chapter, Inc.

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

South Carolina

SC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

South Dakota

South Dakota Chapter – AAP

Tennessee

Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Texas

Texas Pediatric Society

Utah

American Academy of Pediatrics, Utah Chapter

Vermont

American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter

Virginia

Virginia AAP

Washington

Washington Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

West Virginia

West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP)

Wyoming

Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics