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SR-59 (2023-2024)

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ENROLLED FEBRUARY 08, 2024

PASSED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 08, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE RESOLUTION

NO. 59

Introduced by Senator Newman

January 18, 2024

Relative to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SR 59, Newman.

WHEREAS, The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) was established by the federal government in 1974 to safeguard the health of low-income women, infants, and children up to five years of age; and

WHEREAS, WIC in California has been a beacon of support, providing essential nutrition assistance, health care referrals, breastfeeding support, relief in times of crisis, and nutrition education to parents and young children in need; and

WHEREAS, For five decades, WIC has been instrumental in reducing infant mortality, improving birth outcomes, and promoting healthy eating habits among California's most vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, WIC has continuously adapted to the evolving needs of families, offering services that contribute to the overall well-being of mothers and children, including breastfeeding support, healthy food options, a modernized shopping experience, and educational resources; and

WHEREAS, WIC has been a community asset in helping families cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and swiftly adjusted its practices and use of technology to protect the health and wellness of WIC participants and staff; and

WHEREAS, WIC serves nearly 1,000,000 vulnerable California caregivers, infants, and children per month, and directs over \$70,000,000 in healthy food purchases per month into local California grocery stores, farmers' markets, and military commissaries; and

WHEREAS, The dedicated efforts of WIC staff, advocates, and partners have made a profound impact on maternal and child health, laying the foundation for healthier futures for countless Californian families; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Legislature commemorates and celebrates the 50th anniversary of the WIC program, acknowledging its invaluable contributions to the health and well-being of mothers, infants, and children in our state; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges continued support and investment in WIC to ensure that its vital services remain accessible to all who need them; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.