

STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE

1992

Source
HJR 42

Legislative
Resolve No.
59



Urging the Bush Administration and the Congress to increase funding for the Women, Infants, and Children Program so that it is available to all eligible persons.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS the federal Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) provides medical care and nutritious supplemental food to women and children, including prenatal care to pregnant women; and

WHEREAS WIC's supplemental food and medical care give children the healthy start they need to learn well in school and achieve their full potential as human beings; and

WHEREAS WIC's early prenatal care for pregnant women significantly improves pregnancy outcomes, decreasing the number of fetal deaths that might otherwise occur and averting low-birth-weight babies who would otherwise get off to a slow start in life; and

WHEREAS WIC is highly cost effective in the long run because healthy, educated children can become the productive citizens our country needs to remain competitive in an increasingly international economy; and

WHEREAS WIC is also highly cost effective in the short run because low-birth-weight babies and malnourished children would require more expensive health care under

other public assistance programs; and

WHEREAS WIC currently serves only 9,174 of the estimated 25,821 potentially eligible women, infants, and children in Alaska; and

WHEREAS Alaska has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the country; and

WHEREAS food costs in Alaska are high, especially in rural areas, so that WIC dollars based on current allocations from insufficient funds can serve fewer participants compared to other states; and

WHEREAS the Congress, through the work of the Budget and Appropriations Committees, has been regularly increasing WIC funding levels, but this year's funding level will still serve only 54 percent of those who are eligible nationwide, leaving 4,000,000 women, infants, and children without the benefits of the program; and

WHEREAS the Bush Administration has recommended further increases in WIC funding for fiscal year 1992 but the program would still be grossly underfunded; and

WHEREAS full funding of WIC is an important cornerstone in building toward the national goal of ensuring that, by the year 2000, all children should start school ready to learn;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature commends the Administration and the Congress for their prior actions that have increased funding for WIC; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature strongly urges the Administration and the Congress to continue to invest in our future by increasing WIC funding so that all eligible women, infants, and children will be served no later than fiscal year 1995.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Dan Quayle, Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Robert C. Byrd, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate and Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; the Honorable George Mitchell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Thomas S. Foley, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Patrick J. Leahy, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; the Honorable Edward M. Kennedy, Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources; the Honorable E (Kika) de la Garza, Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Agriculture; the Honorable Jamie L. Whitten, Chair of the U.S. House Committee on

Appropriations; the Honorable William D. Ford, Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor; the Honorable George Miller, Chair of the U.S. House Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families; the Honorable Tony P. Hall, Chair of the U.S. House Select Committee on Hunger; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.