

November 8, 2023

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

On behalf of evangelical pastors and leaders who believe that life should be protected both before and after birth, the National Association of Evangelicals asks for your timely leadership to provide critical funding now for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) so that all moms and kids who apply for lifesaving help can receive it. In the absence of this funding now, states will likely be forced to turn away many low-income and nutritionally “at risk” new moms and young children.

Due to food inflation and higher-than-projected participation rates, WIC needs additional funding substantially above the current House and Senate level. The final agriculture appropriations legislation for FY 2024 must fully fund WIC so that no eligible mother or child who needs this lifesaving help is turned away. But since final legislation may be some time off, we strongly encourage you to provide some additional emergency funding in the upcoming continuing resolution (CR) budget bill this month to avoid states restricting or reducing participation among eligible women and children now.

As pro-life, pro-family Christian leaders, we believe that investment in nutritional support for pregnant women and their infants and toddlers is one of the smartest and most important investments we can make in our nation’s future. WIC provides important nutrition benefits, breastfeeding support, and other vital services to low-income pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under five years of age who are at nutritional risk.

In recognition of WIC’s positive impacts on health and developmental outcomes, policymakers have for decades adhered to a bipartisan commitment to provide the program with sufficient funding to serve all eligible families who seek to participate. This will no longer be the case if additional emergency funding is not provided now. We urge you to maintain this longstanding bipartisan commitment to WIC.

If WIC is not fully funded in the upcoming appropriations bill, with at least some additional emergency funding in the next CR, states will likely start turning away as many as 600,000 eligible low-income women and young children from the program, undermining their health with lifelong consequences. We don’t get a second chance to give our children the best start in life.

We urge you to act now in the best interests of mothers and families across the country who need the critical and very effective assistance WIC provides – and that means providing some extra funding for WIC in the November continuing resolution and committing to fully funding the program in the final appropriations package. Americans disagree sharply on policies related to abortion, but nearly everyone agrees that expectant and postpartum moms and their children should have access to all the nutrition and care that they need.

Please let us know how we can help you get this done. You may respond to Galen Carey, the NAE's vice president of government relations, at [GCarey@NAE.org](mailto:GCarey@NAE.org) or 202.285.3835.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter Kim".

Walter Kim  
President