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County Administration Building  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Telephone: (805) 568-2190  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Ventura in support of legislation to reauthorize child nutrition programs.

Enclosed are letters that we have sent to the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee in support of reauthorization and full funding of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). There are 66,880 people (15.9% of residents) living below the federal poverty in the County and approximately 19,412 (20% or about one in five) of the County's children living in poverty. Children who are hungry or sick cannot learn, and may fail to reach their full potential, leading to an uneducated future workforce who compromise future personal self-sufficiency and economic competitiveness. Reauthorization legislation must ensure that WIC can serve all eligible low-income pregnant women, infants, and young children who apply for it.

In California, the WIC Program provides services through 83 Local Agencies, including county health departments, community health centers, and community based nonprofit organizations. Each month, over 1 million women, infants and children are served at more than 500 WIC sites throughout the state. WIC is a cost-effective investment that improves the nutrition and health of low-income families, leading to healthier infants, more nutritious diets and better health care for children, and subsequently to higher academic achievement for students.

Thank you for your continued support for WIC and other child nutrition programs as the Committee drafts reauthorization legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
Washington Representative

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Enclosures