

By: Pena

H.R. No. 256

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for  
2 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) gives critical support to  
3 low-income clients who are at risk for a range of health problems  
4 related to poor nutrition; and

5           WHEREAS, This vital federal program, begun in 1972, is  
6 administered by the Texas Department of Health, which provides  
7 funds to agencies that operate local WIC offices throughout the  
8 state; WIC serves qualifying infants, children up to the age of  
9 five, and women who are pregnant, who have had a baby within the  
10 past six months, or who are breast-feeding a baby under the age of  
11 one; and

12           WHEREAS, The program provides both vouchers for healthy foods  
13 and essential information about nutrition; it offers classes on  
14 topics ranging from parenting skills to common infant problems, the  
15 stages of child development, and the importance of immunizations;  
16 moreover, WIC staff members refer clients to such services as job  
17 banks, literacy programs, child care, and medical and dental  
18 services; and

19           WHEREAS, Studies have shown that women who participate in the  
20 program during their pregnancies have lower Medicaid costs for  
21 themselves and their babies and that participation reduces  
22 premature births, the fetal death rate, low-birthweight births, and  
23 long-term medical expenses and leads to improved cognitive  
24 development in children; and

1           WHEREAS, WIC has improved the health and lives of countless  
2 Texas mothers and children, fostering a brighter future for them  
3 and for the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

4           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2003, as WIC Day at the  
6 State Capitol and extend to WIC administrators and staff sincere  
7 appreciation for their skilled and dedicated efforts.