

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 173

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate