



STRONGER COMMUNITIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

HEADQUARTERS

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May 8, 2024

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Heinrich and Ranking Hoeven:

On behalf of [UnidosUS](https://www.unidosus.org), I write to urge you to support appropriations legislation that improves and advances nutrition for Latinos and their families.

UnidosUS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves as the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Since 1968, we have challenged the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos through our unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an Affiliate Network of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico. We believe in an America where economic, political, and social progress is a reality for all Latinos, and we collaborate across communities to achieve it.

For half a century, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has been building healthier futures for families across the nation. However, last fiscal year, WIC faced unparalleled challenges to its funding, as both participation rates and food costs surged beyond initial forecasts. Amidst a difficult federal funding landscape, Congress united across party lines to uphold its commitment to fully funding WIC, ensuring that the program had the necessary resources to serve every eligible family seeking its vital services. In that spirit, we urge you to continue this bipartisan support by providing:

- **\$7.75 billion for WIC.** This program provides essential resources, including healthy food, nutrition education, breastfeeding counseling, and referrals to health and social services to millions of working families struggling to make ends meet. It also reduces racial disparities in health outcomes; out of the 6.6 million women, infants, and children the program serves, more than 40% are Hispanic. With this funding and the recent updates to WIC food packages, more families could put nutritious foods like whole grains, fruits, and vegetables on their tables, promoting better health outcomes and combatting major public health challenges like obesity and diabetes.

We strongly believe that investing in programs like WIC is not only a moral imperative but also a sound economic decision. By supporting the health and well-being of Latino families, we are investing in the future of our nation. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to advancing the well-being of all Americans, and we look forward to collaborating with you to build a brighter, healthier future for Latino families and the nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Rodriguez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Eric Rodriguez
Senior Vice President
Policy and Advocacy
UnidosUS