



# Extending WIC for New Moms Act

Rep. Lucy McBath  
Sen. Richard Blumenthal

## BACKGROUND

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is a critical federal program to provide supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and postpartum people, as well as infants and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk.<sup>4</sup>

Data on WIC's effectiveness show the benefits of the program for moms and babies: pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding WIC participants have lower likelihoods of pregnancy-related risk factors, lower risk of preterm birth, and lower risk of low-birthweight infants. Maternal WIC participation is also associated with reductions in infant mortality and improved nutrition and health outcomes for infants and children.<sup>5</sup>

By extending eligibility for WIC in the postpartum and breastfeeding periods, the **Extending WIC for New Moms Act** will make sure the nutritional needs of moms and babies are met, improving maternal and child health outcomes and advancing birth equity across the United States.

## BILL SUMMARY

The **Extending WIC for New Moms Act** will:

1. **Extend WIC eligibility in the postpartum period** from 6 months to 24 months.
2. **Extend WIC eligibility in the breastfeeding period** from 12 months to 24 months.

## ENDORSEMENTS

Find a list of cosponsors [here](#), and a list of organizations that have endorsed the Act [here](#).

If you have any questions, or would like to cosponsor, please contact us at:  
BlackMaternalHealthCaucus@mail.house.gov

---

<sup>4</sup> USDA: [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children](#)

<sup>5</sup> AHRO: [Maternal and Child Outcomes Associated With the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\)](#)