

Carol Petrotta
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October 12, 2003

Patricia Daniels, Director
Supplemental Food Programs Division
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA
3101 Park Center Drive, Room 520
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

RE: REVISIONS TO THE WIC FOOD PACKAGES

I am, currently, enrolled in a dietetic internship program and doing a rotation at a WIC site in Oregon. I have also been volunteering at an Oregon Food Bank Distribution site and would like to pass on two requests from the participants of these programs to you:

- Please include fruits and vegetables in the WIC food packages. As you know fruits and vegetables are good sources for many of the micronutrients listed as potential concerns. Oregon has a short growing season making produce costly to purchase many months of the year. Hence, we have become number one in the nation for food insecurity.
- Please allow the substitution of fortified soy, nut and grain beverages for fluid milk and cheese. Many people suffer from lactose intolerance and allergic reactions to casein, yet these beverages are well tolerated.

In closing, I would like to say that the WIC food packages are well received by the people we serve. Thank you for a job well done and for asking for input from the public regarding revisions to the food packages.

Sincerely,



Carol Petrotta
Dietetic Intern

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