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

RE: REVISIONS TO THE WIC FOOD PACKAGES

I am a dietetic intern at Oregon Health and Sciences University. As a future Registered Dietitian and current member of the American Dietetic Association, I am concerned about the exclusion of fresh fruits and vegetables in the WIC package.

"To improve the health of low-income women, infants, and children, through better nutrition and access to health care," is the mission of WIC. Fresh fruits and vegetables are an integral part of proper nutrition, with the greatest nutrient density of all the food groups. With that in mind, I feel obligated to stress the necessity to add fresh fruits and vegetables to WIC food packages as supplemental foods.

These foods are limited for many WIC participants in the winter months for two reasons:

1. These foods generally cost more in the winter
2. The farmer's markets are not open in the winter, and the farmer's market program vouchers cannot be used.

As a program with such successful outcomes, WIC can be even more effective and act as a proactive facilitator of the promotion of health of our communities. As a future dietetics practitioner, I urge you to reexamine the resources available so that this important change can occur.

Thank you,



Danielle DeGarie

