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especially for young children, Nemours made a commitment to contribute to the

rule would take a significant step forward in establishing healthy eating patterns by affirming WIC benefit issuance at 50% of DGA-recommended intake, ix as recommended by NASEM.

We recognize that the increased Cash Value Benefit (CVB) was incredibly well received by program participants after it was implemented in spring 2021, resulting in rapid and measurable increases in fruit and vegetable consumption (averaging a ¼ cup per day increase for WIC-enrolled children).* In addition to addressing key nutrient gaps, the CVB is the most versatile element of the WIC food package, providing a greater degree of choice that can empower WIC families to reflect cultural eating patterns and experiment with new varieties. Therefore, we support the proposal to codify the existing, temporary increase in order to help improve health outcomes and close intake disparities for many years to come.

In addition to increasing access to nutritious foods, the proposed updates to the WIC food package are poised to enhance public health impact by further aligning the WIC food packages and nutrition standards with the DGA For example,r ois effd(,)Tj0 Tc ts503.99

iii Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention