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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To require that certain notifications and certifications relating to WIC be available to members of the Armed Forces undergoing a permanent change of station, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. ESCOBAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require that certain notifications and certifications relating to WIC be available to members of the Armed Forces undergoing a permanent change of station, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Nutrition Continuity
5 for Military Families Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. WIC AVAILABILITY FOR MEMBERS UNDERGOING A**
2 **PERMANENT CHANGE OF STATION.**

3 (a) NOTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL WIC ELIGI-
4 BILITY.—

5 (1) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—In the case of a
6 covered member of the Armed Forces, the Secretary
7 of Defense shall notify such covered member with re-
8 spect to the potential eligibility of such covered
9 member to participate in the special supplemental
10 nutrition program for women, infants, and children
11 established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition
12 Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

13 (2) TIMING OF NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary
14 of Defense shall notify a covered member of the
15 Armed Forces under paragraph (1)—

16 (A) to the maximum extent practicable,
17 not later than 30 days before the applicable
18 mandatory report date of such covered member;
19 or

20 (B) as soon as practicable after an applica-
21 ble permanent change of station order is issued
22 to such covered member.

23 (3) COVERED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES
24 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “covered
25 member of the Armed Forces” means an enlisted
26 member of the Armed Forces who—

1 (A) is undergoing a permanent change of
2 station;

3 (B)(i) has 1 or more dependents under the
4 age of 5; or

5 (ii) is pregnant or has a spouse that is
6 pregnant; and

7 (C)(i) is serving an initial term of enlist-
8 ment;

9 (ii) is serving in a pay grade of E-4 or
10 below; or

11 (iii) has completed less than 10 years of
12 service as a member of the Armed Forces and
13 is serving in a pay grade of E-5 or E-6.

14 (b) STATE AGENCY TREATMENT.—Section 17(d) of
15 the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (7 U.S.C. 1786(d)) is
16 amended—

17 (1) by striking “(d)(1) Participation” and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(d) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Participation”; and

21 (2) in paragraph (2)—

22 (A) by striking “(2)(A) The Secretary”
23 and inserting the following:

24 “(2) INCOME ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (A), by indenting
2 clauses (i) through (iii), and any subclauses
3 therein, appropriately;

4 (C) by indenting subparagraph (B), and
5 any clauses and subclauses therein, appro-
6 priately;

7 (D) by indenting subparagraph (D) appro-
8 priately; and

9 (E) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(E) STATE AGENCY TREATMENT OF AC-
11 TIVE DUTY MEMBERS.—

12 “(i) DEFINITION OF COVERED MEM-
13 BER OF THE ARMED FORCES.—In this sub-
14 paragraph, the term ‘covered member of
15 the armed forces’ means a member of the
16 armed forces (as defined in section 101(a)
17 of title 10, United States Code) who—

18 “(I) is serving an initial term of
19 enlistment;

20 “(II) is serving in a pay grade of
21 E-4 or below; or

22 “(III) has completed less than 10
23 years of service as a member of the
24 Armed Forces and is serving in a pay
25 grade of E-5 or E-6.

1 “(ii) ISSUANCE OF VERIFICATION OF
2 CERTIFICATION CARD.—A State agency
3 shall issue a Verification of Certification
4 card to a covered member of the armed
5 forces at the time of certification or recer-
6 tification of the covered member of the
7 armed forces in the program under this
8 section.

9 “(iii) PERMANENT CHANGE OF STA-
10 TION.—In the case of a covered member of
11 the armed forces who is a participant in
12 the program under this section and under-
13 going a permanent change of station, a
14 State agency shall, during the period be-
15 ginning on the first day of that permanent
16 change of station and ending on the date
17 on which the certification period in which
18 that first day occurs expires—

19 “(I) treat that individual and
20 every participant who is a member of
21 the family of that individual as pre-
22 sumptively eligible to participate in
23 the program; and

24 “(II) provide to that individual
25 and each such family member a

1 Verification of Certification card that
2 is effective for that period.

3 “(iv) TRANSFER OF CERTIFICATION
4 REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements under
5 section 246.7(k) of title 7, Code of Federal
6 Regulations (or a successor regulation),
7 shall apply to every participant who is a
8 member of a family in which there is a
9 covered member of the armed forces.”.

10 (c) WIC OFFICES AT MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.—
11 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of
12 this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall ensure that each
13 military installation is staffed at least 3 days per week
14 by appropriate military personnel, as determined by the
15 Secretary, to provide to members of the Armed Forces in-
16 formation relating to the special supplemental nutrition
17 program for women, infants, and children established
18 under section 17 of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1786), including
19 information relating to—

20 (1) the notification required under subsection
21 (a); and

22 (2) the mandatory reassessment required under
23 subparagraph (E) of section 17(d)(2) of the Child
24 Nutrition Act of 1966 (7 U.S.C. 1786(d)(2)), as
25 added by subsection (b).