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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
SIMMONS

**FROM:** BOYD

**SUBJECT:** CONG. THOMPSON'S INQUIRY RE: WIC PROGRAM,

**DATE:** 4/20/2000

**CC:** FILE

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This is for your information...

The Health Department expects that the Governor will receive a letter from Under-Secretary Shirley Watkins (USDA) regarding the department's administration of the Women, Infants, and Children's nutritional program. It appears that the department will turn back approximately \$2 million in federal funding. Congressman Thompson has raised concerns both with USDA and the Health Department. Please find attached a letter to Cong. Thompson dated 3/28/00 addressing the situation.

According to Bender, a couple of years ago WIC-eligible populations became eligible for participation in the Medicaid provider program that permits participants to see private providers rather than providers in the local health office. This, in part, has resulted in a decline in WIC participation.

Health Department officials met with Virgil Conrad (USDA-Atlanta) on April 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss adequate planning to ensure that WIC populations are not being underserved. Kaye Bender, DoH, noted that this plan will be the topic of the letter from Watkins. A copy of the proposed plan is also attached.