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November 4, 2025

Mr. Joe Stephenshaw, Director
Department of Finance
1021 O Street, Suite 3110
Sacramento, California 95814

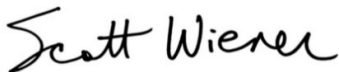
Dear Mr. Stephenshaw:

In a letter dated October 30, 2025, you notified the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to Control Section 28.31 in the *2025-26 Budget Act*, of a request from the Department of Public Health (DPH) for a General Fund loan of \$81 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Control Section 28.31 authorizes the Director of Finance to issue a short-term loan from the General Fund to departments experiencing delays in receipt of federal funds.

WIC is a federally funded health and nutrition program that will be impacted by the ongoing government shutdown. According to your letter, DPH estimates there is approximately \$104.3 million in existing funding that will sustain WIC through November 30. However, if the shutdown continues beyond that date, DPH will need additional funding to maintain the healthy food and nutritional support this important program provides. The \$81 million loan will ensure the program is fully funded through December. DOF assured my staff that the federal government will be obligated to repay the state the full amount spent on preserving WIC services.

To ensure uninterrupted access to WIC benefits in the event the federal government shutdown extends beyond November 30, I concur with the issuance of the loan and waive the remainder of the 20-day review period. This will guarantee that the state has the necessary funds to continue supporting WIC participants without disruption.

Sincerely,



Scott Wiener
Chair

cc: Members of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee

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