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Obama must help in the nutrition battle

When we were born, those caring for us sought to ensure that we got the nutrition we needed to grow and develop properly. But lacking proper nutrition during the critical 1,000-day window between pregnancy and age two, many children die. Others are stunted, meaning their brains and bodies are irreversibly underdeveloped.

Ensuring kids get a healthy start to life is about more than food aid or adding calories to their diet. It's about making sure pregnant women, infants and toddlers have access to the essential nutrition they need and not simply the calories.

When world leaders gather at the Nutrition for Growth Summit later this year, President Barack Obama should be there to commit \$500 million toward nutrition-specific efforts in the last year of his administration. And Congress should support this investment as well. What better Mother's and Father's Day gift could there be in the world?

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