

# PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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## Submitter Information

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## General Comment

I am writing to strongly oppose the administrations proposed rule to gut broad-based categorical eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). As the mother of two teachers and a part time classroom volunteer, I see the child victims of the working poor nearly every day. My sons buy food with their sub-par wages to feed kids who have no lunch.

Restricting broad-based categorical eligibility so severely in the SNAP program would cause great hardship, taking food assistance away from approximately 3 million people in America annually and likely stripping hundreds of thousands of hungry kids of the school meals that help them get the nutrition they need to thrive in the classroom. Gutting categorical eligibility in this way would significantly weaken SNAP by removing states flexibility to make sure their SNAP programs help workers and families get ahead, making it harder for people to apply and receive benefits.

It would punish families who save for the future by forcing states to take food assistance away from those with even modest savings even though emergency savings can help families weather

financial emergencies such as job loss, a broken water heater, or an unexpected medical bill without being pushed into deeper poverty. Already, 4 in 10 adults in America report they either could not cover an emergency expense of \$400 or would need to borrow or sell something to do so. And it would penalize some workers for getting a raise, by creating a sharp benefit cliff that leads to sudden loss of food assistance when wages go up even slightly.

SNAP is one of our nation's most effective anti-poverty programs, helping more than 38 million people in the United States put food on the table every month, on average, in 2018. This proposed rule will result in even more hunger and hardship for millions and must be withdrawn.