

I am Janna Collins, a retired pediatrician. My career was as professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Columbia - Presbyterian in NYC, specializing in gastroenterology and nutrition. I am familiar with WIC and SNAP programs in three states: New York, New Hampshire and Virginia.

In the fifty years since I began practicing medicine these two programs **have nutritionally stabilized** large numbers of individuals and families with food insecurity. The estimated loss of 3.1 M individuals from SNAP due to a Categorical Eligibility provision is a destructive step, an unnecessary chipping away at the program, and a blatant thumbing-of-the-nose by the executive branch of our national government to Congress and its 2018 bipartisan Farm Bill.

My neighborhood grocery stores and open air farmers markets have a diverse client base. We have large numbers of working poor in downtown Brooklyn. They buy healthy produce at the open air market and green grocers year-round. They are in my check out line at Key Food, Gristedes and Trader Joe's. We are all in this together. And as the price of milk increased from 99 cents to \$2.50 over the last few years, their **food insecurity has intensified**.

With Covid these folks have turned to Depression-Era food lines, standing for hours for the gift of some basics for their families. No job, no money. And in a country where we warehouse basic foodstuffs such as milk, butter, cheese and

flour, it is made more difficult to share these products with our people.

Also since this pandemic the proportion of our population that is food insecure has certainly increased above 1:8, the 12.5% level usually quoted.

With schools closed by the Covid pandemic, some states have tried to provide school lunches since the spring and through the summer, even expanding their program to include ALL school children, not just those eligible for subsidized food. A state like NH whose motto is Live Free or Die also follows a Golden Rule of “doing unto others....”. I see this as a win-win approach to stabilizing our country and preserving social cohesion.

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