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House of Representatives

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Opening Statement

Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney

“A Threat to America’s Children: The Trump Administration’s Proposed Changes to the Poverty Line Calculation”

Subcommittee on Government Operations

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Good morning. Thank you all for coming today. As Chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, I first want to thank my colleague Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations, for convening this important hearing on the proposed recalculation of the poverty line. This is the first in a series of four hearings examining the negative effects on children of the Trump Administration’s poverty, housing, hunger, and health regulations.

Put simply, the Trump Administration is engaged in an attack on children. Instead of creating economic opportunity and ensuring the health and well-being of our nation’s children, this Administration prioritizes special interests at their expense. It is our responsibility as a nation and as lawmakers, in particular, to protect all children from harm. We will not stand idly by as this Administration implements policies and regulations that impede child development.

Today, we examine the Office of Management and Budget’s proposal to adopt an inflation rate that would purge thousands of children from eligibility in programs that promote growth and help them escape from poverty. The Administration’s efforts remove access to essential and proven services, such as health care and nutrition assistance. I find it particularly disturbing that this Administration fights for tax breaks for the wealthy while it seeks to take food from the mouths of hungry children. This hearing will highlight how any change to the social safety net should do more, not less, to help America’s children.

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