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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 Broad Based Categorical Eligibility for
the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)”**

Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy

Thursday, February 6, 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 Raja Krishnamoorthi, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy for convening this hearing on the proposed rollback of broad-based, categorical eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program, or SNAP. This is the third in a series of four hearings examining the negative effects of the Trump Administration’s poverty, housing, hunger, and health regulations on children.

These hearings are about the Trump Administration’s attack on children. Congress should be protecting all children from the administration’s harmful regulations, and ensure that our children have the resources they need to reach their full potential.

1 in 6 children in this country is already food insecure, meaning they lack reliable access to food. According to the United States Department of Agriculture’s own estimates, if this proposal is enacted, 684,000 households with children would lose SNAP benefits and nearly 1 million children would likely lose direct enrollment for free school meals. The Administration’s effort to rollback broad based categorical eligibility for SNAP will increase food insecurity for children across the country. Any effort to modify SNAP should reduce food insecurity not make more kids hungry.

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