



September 23, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Comments in Response to Department of Agriculture Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled "Revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," RIN 0584-AE62 (July 24, 2019)

Dear Secretary Perdue:

The Center for Worker Freedom (CWF) is a nonprofit, educational organization that is dedicated to warning the public about the causes and consequences of unionization. CWF supports freedom of association and believes all workers should have the right to decide for themselves whether or not they would like to belong to a labor organization.

The Center for Worker Freedom strongly supports the Department of Agriculture's proposed rule on categorical eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) because the rule would help American workers, especially the truly needy.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program was created to help the truly needy. However, the Clinton and Obama administrations have expanded the eligibility rules through the states so that Americans who do not meet the income and asset eligibility requirements can receive food stamps. In fact, some states consider any household eligible for food stamps who receives a welfare brochure funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program or who has access to a toll-free number with program information.

As a result, in some states, 97.8% of households are categorically eligible for the program. This loophole has led to the enrollment of more than 5 million people who do not meet the eligibility rules. Some of these individuals are actually millionaires and lottery winners.

The proposed rule would fix this loophole by only allowing automatic eligibility for the SNAP program if a household receives TANF-funded cash or non-cash benefits of at least \$50 per month for six months. Non-cash benefits also would only qualify if they helped with employment or child care.

Because this proposed rule would help American workers by ensuring that only the truly needy receive SNAP benefits, the Center for Worker Freedom strongly supports the Agriculture Department's proposed rule on categorical eligibility in the SNAP program.

Sincerely,

Olivia Grady
Senior Fellow