



Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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June 6, 2019

Hon. Sonny Perdue
U.S. Secretary of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave.
SW. Washington DC, 20250

Re: RESOLUTION: OPPOSING CHANGE IN SNAP BENEFIT REQUIREMENTS FOR "ABLE-BODIED ADULTS WITHOUT DEPENDENTS" (ABAWD)

Dear Secretary Perdue:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, 2019, with a vote of 37 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution opposing the change in SNAP Benefit requirements for ABAWD because it will negatively impact CB12.

Whereas: Federal law generally limits the amount of time an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) can receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to 3 months in a 36-month period, unless the individual meets certain work requirements.

Whereas: On the request of a State SNAP agency, the law gives the Department of Agriculture (the Department) the authority to temporarily waive the time limit in areas that have an unemployment rate of over 10 percent or a lack of sufficient jobs. The law provides State agencies with a limited number of percentage exemptions that can be used by States to extend SNAP eligibility for ABAWDs subject to the time limit. The Department proposes to amend the regulatory standards by which the Department evaluates State SNAP agency requests to waive the time limit and to end the unlimited carryover of ABAWD percentage exemptions.

Whereas: An ABAWD is defined as a person between the ages of 18 and 49 who has no dependents and is not disabled. This by definition does not include people with mental health concerns, substance use issues, people struggling with homelessness and/or people who are complicated with childcare and transportation issues.

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Whereas: As of January 2019, about 1.6 million New York City residents received SNAP benefits to help low-income families and individuals. As of 2017, a total of 48,826 total SNAP recipients lived within the CB12M district, helping 32,439 households receive assistance and accounting for 26% of the CB12M district.

Whereas: About 750,000 people in the United States are at risk of losing their SNAP Benefits, which creates more financial burden and distress to U.S. citizens.

Resolved: The parameters of compliance are best understood and controlled by each state rather than the federal government, thus CB12 opposes the change in SNAP Benefit requirements for ABAWD because it will negatively impact CB12 and the state at large, by rendering marginalized people in our community to further be in financial distress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Lewis", with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Richard Lewis
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Steven Banks, DSS Commissioner
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Alfred Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member