



**Representative Janine Boyd
9th House District**

April 22, 2020

Governor Mike DeWine

Dave Yost
Attorney General for the State of Ohio

RE: States Attorney Generals' letter to The Honorable George Ervin Perdue III, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture -Proposed Rule entitled, *Revision of Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*, 84 Fed. Reg. 35,570 (July 24, 2019)

Dear Governor DeWine and Attorney General Yost:

Thank you once more for your continued leadership throughout this unprecedented and uncertain time.

Earlier this month, we recognized National Public Health Week (#NPHW). Our own Ohio Department of Health participated through social media, highlighting health and safety related issues, as well as offering advocacy activities and actions that citizens could conduct to support public health.

Per a 4/7/20 ODH tweet, for instance, day two of #NPHW identified the following health related issue and advocacy activity.

Issue- "Maternal and child health"

Action- "Encourage policy makers to pass laws that expand health coverage, WIC and SNAP"

In the spirit of #NPHW; in consideration of all the disparities in access finally coming to light shined by COVID 19, in terms of the race and socio-economics of Ohioans; and as the Ranking Minority Member of the Ohio House Committee on Health, I feel compelled to ask why Ohio is not listed as a co-signing state on this urgent letter to the Secretary of Agriculture. I have attached the letter signed by Attorney Generals representing 22 states, for your convenience.

In other words, is our state actively co-advocating that the U.S. Department of Agriculture immediately suspend the rule making process for the Proposed Rule entitled Revision of Categorical Eligibility in SNAP, at this time when lines at food banks are miles long?

If we are not actively advocating at this time, do we have plans to join this effort to protect Categorical Eligibility in SNAP for our citizens? To directly quote the attached letter:

The Department's own projections state that the Proposed Rule would throw "1.7 million households in FY 2020, containing 3.1 million individuals" off of vital nutrition assistance benefits. The Rule also "could result in 265,000 children losing their free lunch,"⁷ as the undersigned have noted. The Rule's human costs would be bad enough, but the Rule also will impose substantial additional administrative burdens on the States in the midst of a pandemic in which the States already are the front-line public health and economic responders.

I am honored to continue to work collectively across our branches of government, to protect all Ohioans- during and long after this crisis. Respectfully, we simply cannot protect them without ensuring uninterrupted access to nutrition. This Proposed Rule would further endanger hundreds of thousands in Ohio.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this matter. I look forward to your thoughtful and timely response.

Yours in service,

Janine R. Boyd

State Representative

House District 9

CC:

Dr. Amy Acton, Director, Ohio Department of Health

Kimberly Hall, Director, Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services