

JODEY C. ARRINGTON  
19TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

1029 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4005  
FAX: (202) 225-9615

ABILENE OFFICE  
500 CHESTNUT STREET, SUITE 819  
ABILENE, TX 79602  
(325) 675-9779  
FAX: (325) 675-5038

LUBBOCK OFFICE  
1312 TEXAS AVENUE, SUITE 219  
LUBBOCK, TX 79401  
(806) 763-1611  
FAX: (806) 767-9168

COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
SOCIAL SECURITY  
SELECT REVENUE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4319**

September 23, 2019

Program Design Branch  
Program Development Division  
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA  
3101 Park Center Dr.  
Alexandria, VA 22302

To Whom It May Concern:

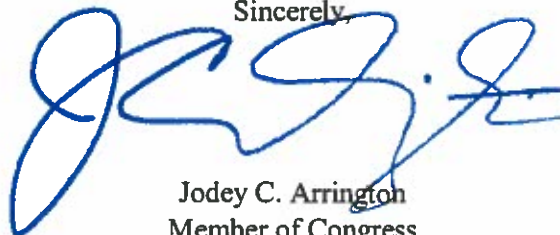
I am writing to submit a comment in support of the proposed rule (RIN: 0584-AE62) that addresses long-overdue and much-needed reforms to broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

As a current member of the House Ways and Means Committee and former member of the House Agriculture Committee, I am pleased to see this administration take the necessary action to close the BBCE loophole that has extended SNAP benefits based on eligibility and participation in other federal entitlement programs such as the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). This proposed rule will prohibit individuals who fail to meet basic SNAP eligibility requirements from obtaining benefits, preserving food stamps for those with the greatest need.

Entitlement programs are one of the fastest growing parts of government spending. Today, we spend 16 times as much on welfare programs as we did in the 1960's, yet the poverty rate was the same in 2013 as it was in 1966. With our economy growing at historic rates, unemployment at record lows, and wages and family income rising at the fastest rate in over a decade, it would be a missed opportunity not to reform food stamp policies that too often trap people in a cycle of government dependency. Instead, we should incentivize our fellow citizens to realize their God-given gifts and talents and seize new opportunities that would not only benefit them, but their families and our entire economy.

I offer my office as a resource to the administration as it takes steps towards finalizing this important rule. I look forward to working with you on this and other welfare reform issues which will increase accountability, reduce waste and inefficiency, and, most importantly, break the cycle of poverty and restore the dignity of work in this country.

Sincerely,



Jodey C. Arrington  
Member of Congress