



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

January 13, 2021

Dear Mr. President-Elect Biden,

Bread for the World congratulates you on your victory in the November election. We know you share our goal of ending hunger in America, and so we look forward to working with your administration on what would be an historic achievement.

Today, we would like to draw your attention to several rule changes in federal nutrition and other safety net programs that have been proposed by the Trump administration. Please consider executive action immediately to rescind these proposed rule changes, which are clearly counterproductive to the daunting challenges you already face in battling hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [Limiting food benefits](#) for a group known as “able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDS).” The Trump administration proposal would restrict states from using waivers to extend the current three-month time limit on ABAWDS who receive SNAP benefits. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that 700,000 low-income adults could lose their SNAP benefits as a result of this change.
- [Tightening eligibility requirements](#) on food benefits for people who qualify for other assistance. The Trump administration rule change would restrict the use of categorical eligibility, which makes it easier for people to automatically qualify for SNAP when they apply for other safety net programs. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, restricting categorical eligibility could cause 3 million people to lose SNAP benefits and one million children to lose free school lunch and breakfast.
- [Changing standards](#) for calculating the utility expenses of SNAP applicants. The Trump administration proposed rule change would impose a national standard for calculating these utility costs. The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that imposing this standard would reduce SNAP benefits for 7 million people.
- [Using SNAP participation to jeopardize permanent residency status](#) for immigrants. The Trump administration change would make participation in SNAP and other safety net programs a factor in determining whether to grant permanent residency, possibly denying green cards to immigrants who use these programs. The Urban Institute reports that the proposal has already produced “chilling effects.” For example, 10 percent of immigrant families with children surveyed have reported they avoid using SNAP due to concern about their green card applications.
- [Weakening nutrition standards for school meals and other food sold in schools](#). The Trump administration proposed rule change would weaken requirements that schools comply with the improved nutrition standards mandated under the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) reports that 99 percent of all schools have already implemented the higher standards.

None of these rules have been finalized, either because they have been blocked by federal judges or are still awaiting court hearings on challenges to them. This means that there is an immediate

opportunity to prevent further harm from Trump administration proposals that would add to hunger during an extremely difficult time for Americans and would undermine the shared commitment of policymakers and advocates to end hunger in our country for good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eugene Cho". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eugene" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cho".

Rev. Eugene Cho, CEO/President