



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

MARCIA L. FUDGE
11TH DISTRICT OF OHIO

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary
U. S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Perdue:

As Chair of the Nutrition, Oversight and Department Operations Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, I write to request an extension of the 60-day comment period for the proposed rule regarding the treatment of Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) entered into the Federal Register today. Given the complexity of and the significant interest in this topic, I request an immediate extension of the comment period from 60 to 120 days to allow for meaningful and robust comments.

The proposed rule includes assumptions about ABAWDs and state administrative agencies that have been recently and thoroughly considered by Congress, and overwhelmingly rejected. In fact, legislative language similar to the proposed rule was included in the initial version of H.R. 2. This language was vetted in detail for five months by Members of the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee before being struck from the final bill. As you know, the House and Senate ultimately passed a Farm Bill conference report by historic margins, and the President signed the bill without delay.

During the Farm Bill signing ceremony, you said that USDA would do its "best to implement that bill" as Congress intended. This proposed rule does just the opposite. Therefore, I ask for an immediate extension of the comment period from 60 to 120 days to allow Members of Congress, and the countless other advocates in favor of protecting SNAP from unwarranted attacks, the opportunity to better inform USDA of the hardships that will result if the Department moves forward with this harmful and intolerable proposed rule.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcia L. Fudge".

Marcia L. Fudge
Chair
Subcommittee on Nutrition, Oversight and Department Operations