



Testimony of Heather Reynolds, Managing Director
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The University of Notre Dame

United States House of Representatives
Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth

*Building a Modern Economic Foundation:
Economic Security and Income Support for 21st Century America*

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The Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) is a research center at the University of Notre Dame. We believe that academic researchers, service providers, and policymakers all play a critical role in ending poverty. LEO matches top researchers with passionate leaders in the social service sector to conduct impact evaluations that identify the innovative, effective, and scalable programs and policies that help people move permanently out of poverty.

We believe that poverty can be outsmarted and that people in poverty deserve interventions that work. The social service community contains the innovations that, when studied, can show us what works. We believe that rigorous research is a powerful means to an end to poverty.

Our research is conducted by Notre Dame faculty and an interdisciplinary network of scholars from across the country. They have in common a deep belief in human dignity, a commitment to excellence in their research methods, and expertise in evaluating domestic anti-poverty programs. Through these impact evaluations, we aim to generate evidence that lights the path to learning, and to share what we learn with more people who need it—from policymakers to front-line service providers—so that each success can inspire thousands more.



We partner with service providers who want to disrupt the anti-poverty space. They realize that decades of "business as usual" have not sufficiently turned the tide on poverty and have left us with scant understanding of what works to lift lives up. They are early adopters, generating innovative ideas about ways to end the cycle of poverty for American families. As poverty's fiercest adversaries, they also have the courage to test their ideas, build evidence, and share what works with more people who need it. They believe that rigorous research can be an end to poverty and a new beginning for millions of families who are ready to thrive.