

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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February 27, 2020

Mr. Indivar Dutta-Gupta
Co-Executive Director
Center on Poverty and Inequality
303 Gewirz Student Center
120 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

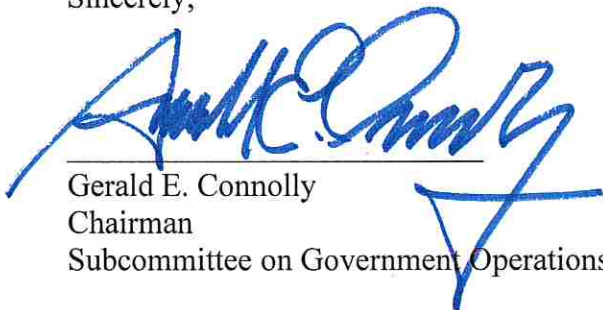
Dear Mr. Dutta-Gupta:

Enclosed are questions that have been directed to you and submitted for the official record for the hearing on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, titled "A Threat to America's Children? The Trump Administration's Proposed Changes to the Poverty Line Calculation."

Please return your written response to these questions by Thursday, March 12, 2020, including each question in full as well as the name of the Member. Your response should be addressed to the Committee office at 2157 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Please also send an electronic version of your response by email to Amy Stratton, Deputy Clerk, at Amy.Stratton@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Elisa LaNier, Chief Clerk, at (202) 225-5051.

Sincerely,



Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Mark Meadows, Ranking Member

Mr. Indivar Dutta-Gupta
Co-Executive Director, Center on Poverty and Inequality

Questions from Chairman Gerald E. Connolly

February 5, 2020, Hearing: "A Threat to America's Children? The Trump Administration's Proposed Changes to the Poverty Line Calculation."

1. Why should people living outside of poverty be concerned about how our government and our society engages those in poverty?
2. Your testimony states that if the Administration chose to use a Chained-Consumer Price Index to inflate the Official Poverty Measure, many families would be stripped of their eligibility for programs like free school lunches, WIC, and SNAP. How would this affect the U.S. economy?
3. Representative Ocasio-Cortez's bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to include in the development of the poverty line, adjustments for "differences in the costs of goods and services among" states and regions. Is this a sound approach? What factors that contribute to poverty fail to be reflected in a single, national definition of poverty?
4. Does the current poverty threshold accurately reflect what it means to experience poverty in America today?
5. What challenges do single mother households face and how can we support single mothers and their families?
6. You have researched poverty extensively throughout your career. In your research, do people who are born into poverty have a high probability of escaping it? Why not?
7. In the rare cases where someone is able to rise out of poverty, what factors are most responsible for that?
8. Do other wealthy nations more effectively help citizens in poverty? Are there methods that we should take into consideration from these nations when designing a new poverty line in America?
9. During the State of the Union Address, President Trump stated that "our economy is the best it has ever been" and that it is "lifting high our citizens of every race,

color, religion, and creed.” Does a good economy directly correlate with economic improvements for those living in poverty?