

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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February 27, 2020

Sister Simone Campbell
Executive Director
NETWORK Lobby
820 First Street, N.E.
Suite 350
Washington, D.C. 20002

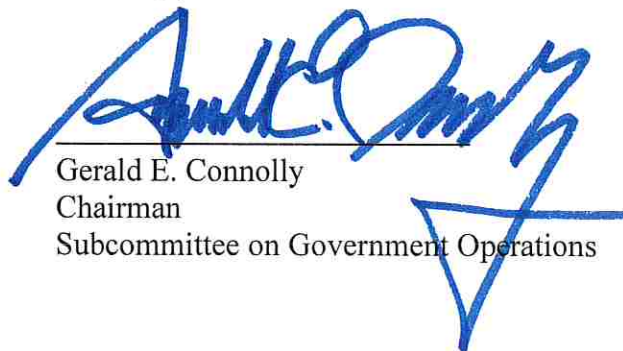
Dear Sister Campbell:

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

**Questions for Sister Simone Campbell
Executive Director, NETWORK Lobby**

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. The 2020 poverty guideline issued by the Department of Health and Human Services is \$26,200 for a family of four. Is this amount sufficient to meet families' needs? Why or why not?
2. In your testimony, you focused on the long-term effects that poverty has on children. How do children experience poverty differently from adults?
3. You have travelled across this country and seen poverty in different areas. What would you say are ways that poverty is different or similar across the nation?
4. How is the effectiveness of government efforts to address poverty affected by the existence of a single definition or a single number defining poverty everywhere in the country?
5. Why is the social safety net crucial for children? What are the impacts on children if the government shrinks the social safety net?
6. The Trump Administration's proposal to apply the Chained CPI to the Poverty Line would cut many individuals from government programs, but some Republican members have touted it as helping to curb an 'expansion of the welfare system.' How would you respond?
7. During the State of the Union Address and in the hearing, the President and other Republican members stated that the economy and stock market are booming and lifting all citizens out of poverty. Does a good economy directly correlate with economic improvements for all people living in poverty? Why are people relying on SNAP and other government supports when there appears to be ample work available?
8. Are there changes you would make to the eligibility criteria for government programs to avoid a 'cliff effect,' in which recipients may have an incentive to earn less than they could to preserve their eligibility for benefits?

9. How common is abuse by adult family members of programs like Free and Reduced Lunch programs or SNAP that are intended for children? Are there ways that we can better ensure these programs benefit children in need?