

Statement for the Record from Kayte Barton

My name is Kayte Barton. I a high functioning autistic adult, and self advocate. As a person with an intellectual disability, and with limited income, and someone who struggles with obesity access to healthy foods is hard to get.

The cost of food is rising, making it hard to afford healthy food choices. I decided to apply for Snap to help.

Upon receiving my Snap benefits I realized that I have limited online shopping options. The only option for shopping I have is ALDI. I don't drive, I only have access to Metro Mobility, but I live with my elderly parents who a high risk for Covid complications, I am unable to get to a physical store. The limited options, make it hard to get everything that I need, making food options very limited. ALDI doesn't carry much. If Instacart can figure out how to make ALDI work with SNap benefits, you would they could do the same with the other stores on the app.

All grocery stores take Snap in store, why can't you make a requirement that they do the same online. This would not only help people like myself but also help seniors who are home bound, and use grocery delivery services too, lessening food insecurity among people with intellectual disabilities and seniors.

People with intellectual disabilities are one of the populations that aren't often thought of when it comes to food insecurity. We are low income, and have limited resources as well. There aren't many programs that are aimed at us when it comes to help us find food resources.

People with intellectual disabilities are 47% more likely to be obese. Access to healthy food through Snap, and expanding the online shopping options the government would be helping to reduce the obesity rate, but also helping to prevent obesity related illnesses such as diabetes. People with intellectual disabilities also need to have access to nutrition programs.