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**Testimony of Annette Jackson, Food Action Board Member,
Hunger Free NYC
Hearing Before The New York City Council Committee on General
Welfare
February 13th, 2018**

Good afternoon everyone and thank you for inviting us to give testimony. My name is Annette Jackson. I am retired senior citizen after a career in advertisement and on the Board of Education. I am a United States citizen, a registered voter in the state of New York and I live in the borough of Manhattan. I am proud to be a Food Action Board member, with formally known as the New York Coalition Against Hunger, today Hunger Free NYC. This organization advocates on behalf of the low income in New York. I am also a volunteer with the food pantry at West Side Campaign Against Hunger on 86 St. in Manhattan. I have been volunteering at food pantries for years. During this years, I seen hundreds of hunger people and families coming to the pantry, to get food for the week and to eat at our soup kitchen.

There are too many families and people living in poverty, in shelters, and in food insecurity. I see senior citizens, unemployed people, immigrants from every countries, veterans, disabled people, and single mothers with families coming to the pantry. They all need to eat and they all need be feed. If food stamps, as well as funding for food pantries and soup kitchens are cut or discontinued it would be devastating to so many people trying to feed their families and children.

I believe that the inability to get enough to eat will increase so many other problems in the city, because without food everything becomes harder. Food is a necessity. Seniors citizen will be more vulnerable to this problems. I am here today to tell you, we need our SNAP Program, food pantries, and soup kitchens. I see hundreds of families who survive from this program, I see homeless, immigrants, and low income New Yorkers from all the borough who are in need of these hunger programs. Please do not cut them or discontinued, I am senior citizen, a mother, a grandmother, a great grandmother, and a great great grandmother, who knows how important these programs are for our low income families and for anyone who is in need of these great programs in our great city of New York.

Now my question to all of you who are listening today on the General Welfare Committee, is if they cut the SNAP Program, soup kitchens, and food pantries how will low income, our most vulnerable senior citizens, children, and families find food, where will these people eat? This is the United States of America, the greatest country in the world. Why is this happening? God bless and thank you for listening.