

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 3 2025

The Honorable Laura Kelly
Governor
300 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Governor Kelly,

We are writing to you today to express our deep concern with your administration's refusal to protect the integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Kansans deserve and expect their tax dollars to be managed properly, not wasted on fraudulent and incorrect payments. Your administration's hostility towards working with federal partners to correct this error rate is unacceptable.

Per the most recent USDA data, Kansas had a payment error rate in SNAP of almost ten percent in 2024.¹ A subsequent investigation by the Kansas House Select Committee on Government Oversight found the error rate in spring 2025 to be almost twelve percent. These numbers represent millions of dollars of Kansans' hard-earned tax dollars being incorrectly sent to fraudsters or other ineligible people, including those who entered the country illegally. Every dollar wasted and stolen from SNAP is money taken from Kansans truly in need. Your administration should be eager to correct these long-standing issues in operating SNAP, but instead, you continue to double down on refusing to do so.

Correcting the error rate in the state is not a partisan issue. In February 2024, then Secretary Vilsack sent you a letter warning you that Kansas' error rate in payments for SNAP was compromising program integrity and detrimentally harming those who legitimately needed access to these benefits.² The Trump administration has continued this demand for accountability by requiring you to securely share SNAP data with USDA to comply with the President's executive order on stopping waste, fraud, and abuse in federal programs. Instead of working with USDA to reduce the error rate, you have flatly refused to comply with this effort. The cost of your refusal to work cooperatively with USDA will significantly harm Kansans. The Trump administration has already informed you that it will withhold the nearly \$10.5 million in federal SNAP administrative funding if you do not take steps to protect SNAP program integrity³.

¹ USDA Food and Nutrition Service: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM: PAYMENT ERROR RATES FISCAL YEAR 2024

² Letter from Secretary Vilsack to Governor Kelly, February 8, 2024

³ Letter from USDA FNS to Governor Kelly, August 12, 2025

Further, your administration's claims about privacy concerns in sending this data are unfounded. USDA has already established a process for securely sending this information,⁴ and they have a responsibility to ensure that the federally funded SNAP benefits are accurately disbursed according to the law. Actively refusing to assist with that effort is an insult to the hardworking Kansans whose tax dollars are at stake.

We demand that your administration drop its intentional obstruction of these efforts and work cooperatively with USDA to strengthen the SNAP program in Kansas. Rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse is critical as the SNAP program moves toward a deeper partnership between the state and federal government. Our constituents deserve transparency and accountability for every dollar spent on SNAP; anything less is a disservice to our communities and our state.

Respectfully,



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress

⁴ Letter from USDA to State Agency Directors, July 23, 2025