

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 9, 2025

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Cc: Senate Majority Leader Erin P. Murphy, Speaker of the House Lisa Demuth, Senate Minority Leader Mark T. Johnson, DFL Caucus Leader Zack Stephenson

Dear Governor Walz:

We write today regarding the State of Minnesota's failure to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse within the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

As you know, SNAP is a federally funded, state-administered program designed to assist eligible low-income households in purchasing the nutrition services they need. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, SNAP spending in Minnesota exceeded \$850 million for over 450,000 enrollees.¹

On May 6, 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) sent a letter to state SNAP agencies requesting application, enrollment, recipient, and transaction data.² As of December 1, 2025, 28 states have complied with USDA's request. Unfortunately, the State of Minnesota has refused to comply with this request, instead suing the Federal government in an attempt to prevent USDA from ensuring program integrity.

According to USDA, collected and analyzed data from the 28 states that have complied with the Department's data request found nearly 186,000 dead participants receiving benefits and over 355,000 recipients dually enrolled within their own state or in multiple states, among other instances of fraud. Over 22.3 million individuals have been run against the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system, resulting in more than 475,000 case files under further scrutiny by States for further action, including case termination. USDA-FNS also identified multiple instances of recipients spending more than \$10,000 per transaction.

¹ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

² <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/data-sharing-guidance>

Alarmingly, recent reporting found that Minnesota's state agency administering SNAP did not perform required security reviews of a computer system that determines who is eligible to receive benefits.³ Moreover, the state incorrectly reported SNAP issuance data to USDA for three years, from 2021 to 2023.⁴

Under your administration, the State of Minnesota has continued to disregard common-sense measures to ensure integrity in the SNAP program. Any lapse in system security or compliance threatens not only taxpayer resources but also the stability of the individuals who rely on this program. Minnesotans deserve confidence that their government is managing these programs responsibly and in accordance with federal law.

7 USC 2020(a)(3) authorizes USDA and FNS to obtain SNAP data from state agencies. Minnesota's failure to comply with USDA's directive is troubling, especially in light of the newly reported deficiencies within the state's cybersecurity, review, and reporting procedures. As members of Congress representing thousands of families who depend on transparent, accountable administration of federal nutrition programs, we respectfully request the following:

1. A full explanation for why the state did not complete required security assessments of its SNAP systems.
2. A detailed timeline for when these overdue reviews will be conducted and corrective action completed.
3. An update on the State's response to USDA's May 6 data request, including the reason for the delay and the date by which Minnesota will submit the required information.
4. A description of any additional steps your administration is taking to ensure SNAP system security and compliance moving forward.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture

³ <https://kstp.com/5-investigates/audits-lack-of-security-reviews-left-minnesota-snap-system-vulnerable-to-breaches-fraud/>

⁴ <https://www.fox9.com/news/state-blames-reporting-errors-oversized-snap-payout-figures>



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress