

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 12, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We write to express our strong objection to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recent threats to penalize states that complied with court orders and issued full November Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. It is imperative USDA recognize these state actions were taken in compliance with court orders and, as such, must not in any way count towards their SNAP payment error rate, which would trigger punitive measures under Public Law 119-21, the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act*. As members of the Michigan delegation, we strongly urge you to reconsider your position given the quickly evolving landscape.

On November 6, 2025, the U.S. District Court in Rhode Island ordered the Trump Administration to fully fund November SNAP benefits.<sup>1</sup> USDA subsequently informed states that it was preparing to comply with that ruling<sup>2</sup>, prompting state agencies – including Michigan's Department of Health and Human services – to move quickly and process full benefits<sup>3</sup> in order to avoid gaps in service. Following the Supreme Court's November 7, 2025, order pausing the lower court's ruling, USDA issued a conflicting directive instructing states to "immediately undo any steps taken to issue full SNAP benefits for November 2025."<sup>4</sup> USDA guidance further stated that failing to do so could result in a cancellation of "the Federal share of State administrative costs and holding States liable for any overissuances that result from the noncompliance."<sup>5</sup>

USDA's threat of penalties is unjust, detrimental, and its only effect will be to keep food from reaching hungry families in our communities. More than 1.4 million Michiganders rely on SNAP

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<sup>1</sup> United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island | [Case 1:25-cv-00569-JJM-AEM](#)

<sup>2</sup> USDA Food and Nutrition Service | [November 7, 2025 - Updated Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) November Benefit Issuance](#)

<sup>3</sup> Reuters | [USDA tells states to undo efforts to issue full food aid benefits](#)

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture | [November 8, 2025 - Updated Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) November Benefit](#)

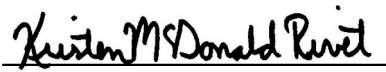
<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture | [November 8, 2025 - Updated Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\) November Benefit](#)

to put food on the table. State agencies, like the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, acted in good faith with the information they had from USDA to ensure families received the benefits they were entitled to under the law. Michigan taxpayers should not pay the price because the state government fulfilled its duty to feed families during an unprecedented period of legal and administrative uncertainty.

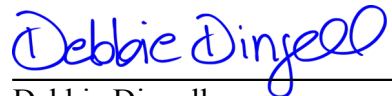
Access to food is a basic necessity, not a political bargaining chip. Holding states liable or inflating their payment error-rate calculations under the *One Big Beautiful Act* wrongly shifts the blame for federal confusion onto agencies that were simply complying with court orders and USDA's own prior guidance. We urge USDA to immediately reverse course and make clear that no penalties, clawbacks, or error-rate consequences will be imposed on states that issued full SNAP benefits in good faith.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

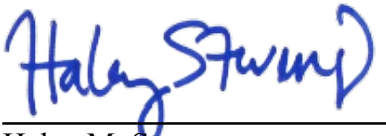
Sincerely,



Kristen McDonald Rivet  
Member of Congress



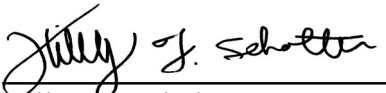
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