

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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June 24, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform's Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency is actively fighting waste, fraud and abuse across federal programs through the legislative and oversight means at our disposal. As a part of these efforts, the Subcommittee's investigation includes waste, fraud and abuse in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the primary federal nutrition assistance program. I write to you today seeking information regarding California's refusal to provide critical SNAP data to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for stopping fraud.

The Trump Administration made use of executive authority to improve program integrity, but cooperation by states remains vital to ensure that federal funds only go to eligible recipients and not fraudsters. Cooperation is especially important for programs like SNAP, which are jointly administered by the states who collect and maintain essential program data, including data regarding beneficiary eligibility.

Federal taxpayers spent roughly \$100 billion on SNAP in Fiscal Year 2024 alone.¹ Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) reported a national SNAP payment error rate of nearly 11 percent.² Fraud and abuse in programs such as SNAP are in part an information-sharing problem: The information required to ensure program integrity is dispersed across multiple federal and state systems that do not adequately share data. President Trump recognized and took action to address this issue back in March 2025, by issuing Executive Order 14243, *Stopping Waste, Fraud and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos*.³ Pursuant to E.O. 14243, USDA sent a request for certain data on May 6, 2026, to state agencies that administer SNAP:

¹ Jordan W. Jones, *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*, U.S. DEP'T OF AGRIC. (updated July 24, 2025).

² *Id.*

³ *Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos*, Exec. Order No. 14243, 90 Fed. Reg. 13681 (Mar. 25, 2025).

At present, each State, district, territory, and payment processor is a SNAP information silo. These various entities maintain discrete collections of SNAP application, enrollment, recipient and transaction data, each of which is necessary in ensuring the integrity of the Program.⁴

The May 6 letter request referenced USDA's statutory authority to obtain SNAP data, and advised the state agencies that USDA would require them to submit SNAP recipient data and benefit records dating back to January 1, 2020.⁵ On June 23, 2025, USDA published a System of Records Notice (SORN) in the Federal Register describing the information it would collect ("The National SNAP Information database") and explaining its purpose:

USDA will leverage data-sharing across Federal and State systems to identify and rectify any ineligible, duplicate or fraudulent SNAP enrollments or transactions. This includes verifying eligibility based on immigration status, identifying and eliminating duplicate enrollments, assisting States in mitigating identity theft, and performing other eligibility and program integrity checks using lawfully shared internal and interagency data.⁶

The SORN also explained that the database and the servers hosting the data would be safeguarded and maintained in a FedRamp certified cloud environment.⁷ On July 9, 2025, USDA informed states that they should submit the aforementioned SNAP data by the end of the month.⁸ A total of 29 states provided the requested data to USDA, according to a report the agency issued in May 2026.⁹ Those states that responded were overwhelmingly governed by Republican administrations, while the states that failed to comply were overwhelmingly Democrat-controlled.

The data provided by the 29 state agencies has already allowed USDA's SNAP Program Integrity Data Team to identify at least \$3 billion in potential waste, fraud and abuse.¹⁰ According to the report, "The largest issues by volume were cases with dummy or missing SSNs and intrastate duplication, together representing hundreds of thousands of records. Interstate duplication and deceased individuals appearing as active participants also showed substantial counts."¹¹

USDA would likely be able to identify billions more in potential fraud if non-complying states, including California, which is among the states with the largest number of SNAP beneficiaries, were to step up and constructively participate in this effort. Your state's noncompliance carries a great cost to the American public. To assist the Subcommittee's

⁴ Letter from Gina Brand, Senior Policy Advisor for Integrity, U.S. Dep't of Agric., to State SNAP Agency Directors (May 6, 2025).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records*, 90 Fed. Reg. 26521 (June 23, 2025).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Letter from Brooke L. Rollins, Sec'y, U.S. Dep't of Agric., to State SNAP Agencies (July 9, 2025).

⁹ U.S. DEP'T OF AGRIC., USDA SNAP PROGRAM INTEGRITY DATA TEAM: PRELIMINARY REPORT (May 2026).

¹⁰ *Id.* at 2.

¹¹ *Id.* at 7.

investigation of this matter, please provide the following documents and communications as soon as possible but not later than July 8, 2026:

1. All documents and communications between or among the Governor's office and the California Department of Social Services referencing the state's response to the USDA's May 6, 2026, request for SNAP data, including both state employees and contractors;
2. All documents and communications within the Governor's office referencing the state's response to the USDA's May 6, 2026, request for SNAP data, including both state employees and contractors;
3. All documents and communications within the California Department of Social Services referencing the state's response to the USDA's May 6, 2026, request for SNAP data, including both state employees and contractors;
4. All documents and communications in the possession of the Governor's office referring or relating to the collection of SNAP data, or the integrity of California's SNAP program, including concerns about waste, fraud, and abuse; and
5. An explanation of why California refuses to provide the federal government with data necessary for ensuring the integrity of the federally funded SNAP program.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. To arrange for delivery of documents or to ask any related follow up questions, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett
Chairman
Subcommittee on Delivering
on Government Efficiency

cc: The Honorable Melanie Stansbury, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency