



New Mexico State Legislature

STATE CAPITOL

Santa Fe

November 13, 2025

Mr. Charles Sallee
Director
Legislative Finance Committee
State Capitol North
325 Don Gaspar, Suite 101
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Director Sallee:

With the enactment of Section 7 in House Bill 1 of the 2nd special session which earmarks \$50,000 for the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) staff to conduct a program review of the state's administration of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), we are writing to identify a number of items which we believe must be included in the scope of this important program review. In addition, we are strongly supportive of this program review as the findings and recommendations contained in the review's final report will likely provide a pathway towards long overdue reforms and improvements in a program that has a history of waste, fraud, and abuse.

To ensure the SNAP program review results in improving the expenditure of taxpayers' money, as well as enhancing a program that encourages low-income New Mexicans to purchase wholesome and nutritious food, the program review should include, but not limited to, the following important focal points:

- Explore the causes of the state's 14.5 percent error rate involving SNAP recipient benefit payments and make recommendations as to how the state can quickly and efficiently meet the new 6 percent error rate threshold mandated by the recent federal budget reconciliation bill.
- Examine the Health Care Authority's (HCA) current procedures in determining recipients' eligibility for benefits and recommend safeguards to improve the income and other program verification processes essential to program administration.
- Undertake a comprehensive analysis of the Health Care Authority's anti-fraud measures and protections to determine if effective steps are being taken to significantly limit the black market selling of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. In addition, the final report of the review must highlight additional steps or policies that will greatly reduce the current rate of EBT cards being illegally sold.

- Identify what administrative steps the Health Care Authority utilizes to guarantee undocumented immigrants are not receiving benefits improperly and what steps are taken to recover improper benefit payments, if provided. Equally important, the
- program review should recommend any needed enhancements to current procedures to improve program due diligence to stop undocumented immigrants from improperly receiving benefit payments.
- Review the nutritional standards of the types of food that can be purchased with SNAP benefit payments and make recommendations to prioritize the purchase of food types that maximizes recipients' ability to use SNAP benefits to prepare nourishing meals.
- With the federal reconciliation bill establishing an enhanced work requirement for certain SNAP recipients, considerable attention must be given to determine whether the HCA is properly prepared to administer this new work requirement since New Mexico currently has a waiver which precludes SNAP recipients from meeting any pre-federal budget reconciliation work requirement.

Thank you for your consideration of our ideas and suggestions as to what must be included in the scope of the SNAP program review. Further, we look forward to providing any assistance necessary to make certain this LFC program review will lead to increased taxpayers' confidence in the SNAP program. We also hope this program review will improve program administration so that those truly in need receive the food assistance they deserve.

Respectfully yours,



Gail Armstrong
House Republican Leader



William E. Sharer
Senate Republican Leader



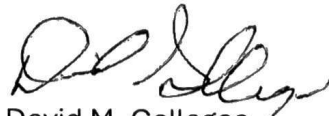
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