

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 30, 2026

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

Dear Governor Walz,

We are writing to express our strong support for funding to update Minnesota's severely outdated systems for administering Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This critical and commonsense funding will increase efficiency by helping counties to check eligibility more quickly, reduce their error rates, and keep up with the new federal requirements within the *Working Families Tax Cut Act*.

On July 4, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed the *Working Families Tax Cut Act*, which included reforms to the SNAP and Medicaid programs to protect them against fraud and strengthen the programs for which they were created, including children, the elderly, and those with disabilities. These reforms include more frequent eligibility checks for Medicaid, work requirements, and penalizing states for high SNAP payment error rates.

As you know, SNAP and Medicaid are both federally funded, state-administered programs. Minnesota is one of fewer than a dozen states that have chosen to require its counties to administer Medicaid and SNAP benefits and cover a portion of the costs incurred.¹ Currently, counties are operating on state systems that are decades old. MAXIS, the system that is used for SNAP, was built in 1989 and looks largely the same as it did almost four decades ago. While METS, a "newer" system that helps with federal Medicaid, also exhibits a complete lack of functionality and significant inefficiencies. Our offices have had demonstrations of these systems by Minnesota counties, and we were shocked to see the systems they are currently operating out of.

However, there has been very little investment by the state to provide our counties with an updated system. There are numerous federal grants that states can apply to, such as the SNAP Process and Technology Improvement Grants through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Additionally, there are federal matches for states to update their systems. Although there are numerous resources available, counties in Minnesota are still operating in systems that are from the 20th Century. This is completely unacceptable.

Our counties must be set up for success. It is unfair to our county workers, the recipients of these benefits, and all Minnesota taxpayers that our counties are forced to operate on state systems that

¹ Knudsen, C. (2025, July 3). *Minnesota counties expect Medicaid, SNAP changes could result in tax increase*. KSTP.com 5 Eyewitness News. <https://kstp.com/kstp-news/top-news/minnesota-counties-expect-medicaid-snap-changes-could-result-in-tax-increase/>.

cannot keep up with the modern-day requirements based on a county-administered benefit delivery system that the state has chosen to adopt. As the legislative session wraps up, we are urging you to provide these commonsense investments in our counties' IT systems to increase efficiency and reduce error rates.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress