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April 23, 2026

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

Dear Governor Walz,

We are extremely concerned about the reports of fraud in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in Minnesota. Given recent news, we are once again requesting that the state comply with the Trump administration's request that Minnesota provide its SNAP enrollment data to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Two different cases of SNAP fraud have been found during the month of April in Minnesota. In early April, charges were filed against an Anoka County couple for defrauding more than \$860,000 from federally funded programs, including SNAP.<sup>1</sup> More recently, on April 16, federal agents executed criminal search warrants at multiple SNAP retail locations within the Twin Cities in an operation called Operation Cold Snap.<sup>2</sup> Here they found SNAP recipients using funds on their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card and exchanging it for cash at discounted rates. In addition to executing searches, agents issued administrative charging letters to 20 separate retailers stating they violated specific laws and regulations.<sup>3</sup>

Although federally funded, the state oversees the registration and enrollment of individuals in the federal program. These are two examples of fraud within the program, but there are also statistics that point to a staggering increase in SNAP funding going to Minnesota. A recent study found that in Fiscal Year 2023 \$1.3 billion was spent on SNAP in Minnesota, tripling the amount spent only four years earlier.<sup>4</sup> Although the increase was during the COVID-19 pandemic, this is well above the increase of other states. There have been other programs in Minnesota, such as the Housing Stabilization Services Program, where we saw similar unusual upticks that turned out to be fraud.

On May 6, 2025, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service sent a letter to state SNAP agencies

<sup>1</sup> "Anoka County couple charged in \$800K public benefits fraud probe." *Fox9*. 9 April 2026.

<https://www.fox9.com/news/anoka-county-couple-charged-800k-public-benefits-fraud-probe>.

<sup>2</sup> "Minnesota fraud: Feds search retailers suspected of 'SNAP trafficking'." *Fox9*. 16 April 2026.

<https://www.fox9.com/news/operation-cold-snap-feds-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-fraud-april-16>.

<sup>3</sup> "Operation Cold SNAP puts Minnesota SNAP Traffickers into the Deep Freeze." *U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Inspector General*. 16 April 2026. <https://usdaoig.oversight.gov/articles/news/press-releases/operation-cold-snap-puts-minnesota-snap-traffickers-deep-freeze>.

<sup>4</sup> "REP. ALTENDORF: FEDERAL DATA SHOWS MASSIVE JUMP IN SNAP ISSUANCE IN MINNESOTA." *Minnesota House of Representatives*. 5 November 2025.

<https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/news/15602/51398>.

requesting application, enrollment, recipient, and transaction data. On December 9, 2025, we wrote to you asking you to provide USDA with the requested SNAP data, but your administration has still refused to comply. In response to the Trump administration's request for SNAP recipient verification data, your Attorney General, Keith Ellison, flatly stated, "I will not allow that."<sup>5</sup> On December 16, 2025, USDA Secretary Rollins requested that Minnesota provide the administration with their SNAP data, partly to identify and eradicate fraud. This should not be a surprise or a heavy lift given Minnesota's track record on fraud.

Like the rampant fraud in Medicaid, daycares, and school nutrition programs, fraud in SNAP is hurting the vulnerable and taxpayers. Minnesota deserves leaders who are committed to rooting out the systemic fraud in Minnesota and protecting taxpayer dollars to ensure money is going to the mothers, children, and low-income families who rely on SNAP to survive. Once again, we are asking you to comply with the federal government to get fraud out of SNAP.

Sincerely,



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress

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<sup>5</sup> "Attorney General Ellison files for emergency relief to protect almost 450k SNAP recipients." *The Office of Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison*. 30 December 2025.  
[https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Communications/2025/12/30\\_SNAP.asp](https://www.ag.state.mn.us/Office/Communications/2025/12/30_SNAP.asp).