

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Rollins:

We write today to express deep concern regarding your recent statement that the next step to rebuilding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is to make everyone currently receiving this benefit reapply.

In this interview, you said, “never before has the federal government asked for the [SNAP] data.”¹ However, the USDA website states that every June, the federal government “analyzes the final data collected from the states and uses that to determine national and state payment error rates.”² You went on to say that this data would “give us a platform and a trajectory to fundamentally rebuild this program, have everyone reapply for their benefit.”³

A process to review all SNAP recipients and ensure they remain eligible is already in place. According to current federal law, states are directed to require all SNAP recipients to complete a recertification a minimum of once every 12 months, unless all household members are elderly or disabled, in which case they must complete recertification a minimum of once every 24 months.⁴ Many states choose to require recertification every six months. Recertification mirrors the certification process and is intended to ensure that the household remains eligible and receives the correct allotment. This process includes a recertification application, interview, verification, and timely eligibility determination. Due to the extensive recertification requirements, families can experience delays in receiving their benefits, causing greater food insecurity. An audit of North Carolina’s SNAP program found that over 250,000 families did not receive their benefit payment on time, and a significant portion of this was likely due to recertification.⁵ Similar reports of delayed processing due to the recertification process are also found in Florida.⁶ To force every SNAP recipient to reapply would not only be redundant and unnecessary but would also add a further burden to states and likely cause delays for families in need.

1 <https://www.breitbart.com/clips/2025/11/14/rollins-next-step-is-to-make-everyone-reapply-for-snap-to-ensure-integrity/>

2 <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/qc>

3 <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/11/14/trump-usda-snap-participants-reapply-benefits-00651874>

4 7 U.S.C. § 2012; 7 C.F.R. § 273.14

5 <https://www.carolinajournal.com/audit-83m-in-snap-benefits-delayed-to-nc-recipients/>

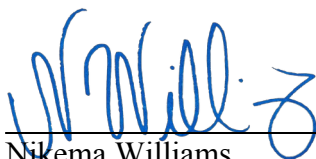
6 <https://www.newsweek.com/snap-map-benefit-delays-state-1885496>

Your call to force all SNAP recipients to reapply is troubling. This would overrule federal law and existing state processes, jeopardizing the families that count on SNAP to feed their loved ones. We urge you to immediately reconsider this decision—especially as families are still reeling from November’s SNAP delay. This delay was caused by your office and the Trump Administration when President Trump refused to follow federal standards requiring SNAP benefits to be fully funded during the shutdown.⁷ Families already fighting to get by shouldn’t have to jump through new hoops to keep the benefits they are rightfully entitled to.

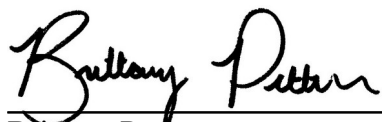
We call on you to clarify that SNAP recipients will not be required to complete any additional reapplication process beyond the current recertification process. We strongly urge you to provide clarity to those who rely on SNAP and commit to following the federal laws in place to ensure that American families can have food on the table this holiday season and beyond.

We look forward to your prompt response.

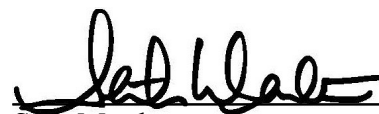
Sincerely,



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



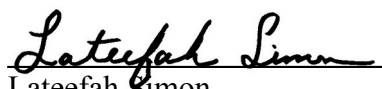
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress

⁷ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-administration-has-the-power-and-legal-obligation-to-pay-snap-benefits-during-the-shutdown/>