



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3222

House Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Health
Subcommittee on Trade
**House Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology**
Subcommittee on Energy
**House Permanent Select
Committee on Intelligence**
Subcommittee on Defense
Intelligence and Overhead Architecture
Subcommittee on National
Intelligence Enterprise

July 29, 2026

Governor Kathy Hochul
Office of the Governor
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul:

I write today to express serious concerns about New York State's lack of information sharing and cooperation with the federal government to reduce the state's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) error rates. I urge you to immediately cooperate with the federal government's efforts to safeguard taxpayer dollars from waste, fraud, and abuse.

As you likely know, on June 24, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released its annual SNAP Payment Error Rates (PER) report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the federal benchmark measuring how accurately states determine SNAP eligibility and benefit amounts. The national payment error rate for FY25 was 10.62%, surpassing the congressionally mandated threshold of 6% and representing over \$10 billion in improper payments nationwide. Under your administration, New York recorded an overpayment rate of 12.06% and an underpayment rate of 1.12%, for a combined total error rate of 13.18%. This represents one of the worst error rates in the entire country. Based on these numbers, New York is issuing over \$2.8 million of SNAP benefits in error on average every day.

This is unacceptable. At a time when our state faces one of the worst affordability crises in the nation, your administration is wasting the hard-earned dollars of taxpayers and harming the vulnerable New Yorkers who actually qualify for these critical nutrition aid programs.

Critically, under federal law, beginning as soon as October 1, 2027, states with payment error rates exceeding 6% will be required to incrementally cover 5%, 10%, and then 15% of their own state's SNAP benefit costs. Given New York's error rate and the scale of our SNAP program, this liability could represent hundreds of millions of dollars in additional costs to New York State taxpayers. These costs will cause even greater hardships given the state budget is already facing a \$34 billion structural deficit over the next three years.

Additionally, under the new changes to federal law, states exceeding the 6% error rate threshold are required to submit a Corrective Action Plan to USDA detailing how they will address the root causes of their errors and may be subject to additional financial penalties as part of the SNAP quality control process. To date, I am not aware of any such plan having been submitted or publicly announced by your administration.

Twenty-nine states across the country have taken proactive steps to reduce SNAP fraud and abuse by partnering with the federal government to share participant data. This enables the identification of bad actors, duplicate enrollment, and other forms of program abuse. New York has not only declined to join this effort, but your

administration has actively withheld New York's SNAP participant data from the federal government despite repeated federal requests. New York cannot afford to ignore common sense measures that would reduce waste, protect program integrity, and save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Sharing New York's SNAP data with the federal government is one of the most straightforward and cost-effective steps your administration could take to correct these issues causing such a high error rate. Sharing data could help restore fiscal discipline, root out bad actors, get our error rates under control, and ensure that the New Yorkers who genuinely need these benefits receive them accurately and reliably.

Given the financial burden your administration's mishandling of SNAP payments may place on New York State taxpayers, I respectfully request answers to the following questions no later than close of business August 14, 2026:

1. Will your administration join the other 29 states in sharing New York's SNAP participant data with the federal government to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse and lower our payment error rate?
2. Why has your administration declined to share New York's SNAP participant data with the federal government thus far?
3. When will your administration submit a Corrective Action Plan to USDA as required under federal law?
4. What specific steps is your administration currently taking to reduce New York's SNAP payment error rate below the federally-mandated threshold of 6%?

There is both a clear economic imperative and a moral obligation to do right by New York's taxpayers and by the vulnerable New Yorkers who depend on these programs. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claudia Tenney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress