

North Carolina General Assembly

June 18, 2026

The Honorable John Boozman
Chair, Senate Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
Ranking Member, Senate Agriculture Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman, Senator Klobuchar, Senator Hoeven, and Senator Shaheen:

We write to urge Congress to delay the implementation of SNAP benefit and administrative cost-sharing provisions enacted under the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* (H.R. 1/P.L. 119-21). North Carolina strongly supports the integrity and accuracy of SNAP administration, and we are committed to working with federal partners to reduce payment error rates. However, the combination of operational disruption caused by delayed federal implementation guidance and new financial accountability measures taking effect has created an untenable situation for our state and its 100 counties. We respectfully request that Congress act to delay these provisions until conditions allow for a fair and accurate accounting of program performance.

North Carolina is home to more than 1.2 million residents who rely on SNAP each month, including 544,000 children, as well as seniors and adults with disabilities. The financial implications of H.R. 1's cost-sharing structure for our state are severe. Under the law's tiered Payment Error Rate (PER) framework, states with a PER above 6 percent are required to cover between 5 and 15 percent of SNAP benefit costs. However, states that have a PER above 13.3 percent have a two-year runway to implement these changes. North Carolina's FY 2024 PER of 10.21 percent places the state in the highest tier, potentially requiring it to cover 15 percent of more than \$2.8 billion in annual benefits distributed — a cost exposure of up to \$420 million per year. Beginning in FY 2027, the state and its counties will also be required to absorb 75 percent of SNAP administrative costs, adding an estimated \$16 million annually to the state and \$69 million annually to North Carolina's 100 county Departments of Social Services, agencies that are already administering this program on behalf of the federal government.

These costs are compounded by circumstances beyond the state's control. Although many H.R. 1 provisions took effect on July 4, 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service issued implementation guidance incrementally through October 2025, and then corrective guidance in December 2025. At the same time, the federal government shutdown late last year produced rapidly shifting and conflicting guidance on benefit issuance, generating irregular statewide issuance patterns that are not reflective of stable or normal operations. As a result, the Quality Control data being used to determine state cost-sharing obligations does not accurately represent North Carolina's performance under fully implemented, stable conditions.

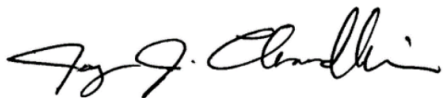
We respectfully urge Congress to delay SNAP benefit and administrative cost shares for all states until FY 2030, using FY 2027 Quality Control data, and include such provisions in any forthcoming Appropriation Bills or legislative vehicle. This would give North Carolina and other states adequate time to implement federal policy changes, reduce error rates, and invest in the staffing, training, and systems necessary for accurate program administration. Basing accountability on post-implementation, stable-period data is both fair and fiscally sound.

This request is narrowly tailored, temporary, and designed to protect both program integrity and taxpayer dollars. The change would ensure that North Carolina and other states are held accountable based on conditions they can control, rather than penalized for unavoidable disruptions caused by federal actions.

North Carolina is actively implementing solutions. Our Department of Health and Human Services has partnered with external resources to identify and implement high-impact interventions across policy, training, and information technology to improve SNAP payment accuracy. Despite the added complexity of being a state-supervised, county-administered system, our full faith effort is producing results. NC DHHS has already reduced the state reported PER from 10.21 percent to 7.01 percent¹ and continues to work diligently to bring it below the 6 percent threshold. But applying significant financial penalties now — based on disrupted data from a period of unprecedented operational turmoil — would undermine those investments, strain the state and county budgets, and ultimately threaten program stability for the 1.2 million North Carolinians who depend on SNAP.

We appreciate your attention to this critical matter and welcome the opportunity to discuss it further. North Carolina stands ready to be a committed partner in achieving the shared goals of accurate, effective, and fiscally responsible SNAP administration.

Sincerely,



Jay J. Chaudhuri
NC Senate – District 15



Jim Burgin
NC Senate – District 12

¹ Unofficial state reported rate. USDA's official rate for FFY25 will be released on June 30, 2026.



Amy Beros
President & CEO, Food Bank of Central and
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Marissa Spady
North Carolina Senior Manager,
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cc: The Honorable Thom Tillis, United States Senate
The Honorable Ted Budd, United States Senate