



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4204

October 30, 2025

Secretary Rollins & Secretary Noem,

I write to you today to express my concern that the United States Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is continuing to be utilized by illegal aliens, despite multiple Trump Administration directives, when we have American citizens who are in need. I strongly believe that without strict reporting requirements from states that manage their individual SNAP programs, corruption will occur from progressive governors and state leaders.

Secretary Rollins, thank you for your swift action¹ in supporting President Trump's Executive Order Number 14218² by instructing the United States Department of Agriculture to enforce all rules regarding SNAP beneficiaries, ensuring they are of legal status or have U.S. citizenship.

I want to commend President Trump, Secretary Noem, Border Czar Holman, FBI Director Patel, and all others in this Administration who have taken immediate action to deport those who entered our country illegally. President Biden's failed border policies left this country overrun with criminal illegal migrants who have become a burden on our hardworking tax-paying citizens.

However, in addition to the lack of reporting requirements there are currently 11 exceptions would provide illegal border crossers immediate access to SNAP benefits, allowing them to circumvent the five-year waiting period that legal immigrants must wait to enroll in U.S. welfare programs.

These exceptions are:

1. Qualified alien children under 18 years old
2. Refugees admitted under section 207 of INA (includes victims of severe forms of trafficking)
3. Victims of Trafficking under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
4. Asylees under Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)
5. Deportation withheld under 243(h) or 241(b)(3) of INA
6. Amerasian immigrants under 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act
7. Cuban or Haitian entrants as defined in 501(e) of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980
8. Iraqi and Afghan special immigrants under Section 101(a)(27) of the INA

¹ <https://www.fns.usda.gov/newsroom/usda-0034.25>

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/02/ending-taxpayer-subsidization-of-open-borders/>

9. Certain American Indians born abroad
10. Members of Hmong or Highland Laotian tribes, legally living in the U.S., that helped the U.S. military during the Vietnam era, and their spouses or surviving spouses and unmarried dependent children
11. Elderly individuals born on or before August 22nd, 1931 and who lawfully resided in the U.S. on August 22nd, 1996

President Biden stopped the enforcement of former President Trump's Public Charge Rule in March of 2021, which denied migrants' entrance into the U.S. if they possessed the potential to need government welfare assistance. This enticed even more migrants to flood our southern border. We are also aware that under the direction of Biden, many migrants were granted asylum or asylum-seeking status without proper investigation or adjudication into these claims.

We must collect the facts to create strong policies that will ensure that SNAP is being utilized to serve the needs of the American people.

I request that you provide answers to the following questions (that were never answered by Secretary Vilsack or Secretary Mayorkas) by December 1, 2025.

Questions for the United States Department of Agriculture:

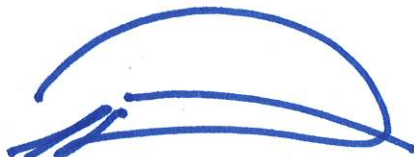
- How many Americans are currently enrolled in SNAP benefits?
- How many non-American citizens are currently enrolled in SNAP benefits?
 - a) How many non-American citizens enrolled in SNAP benefits are minors?
 - b) How many non-American citizens enrolled in SNAP benefits are claiming asylum-seeking status?
 - c) How many non-American citizens began immediately receiving SNAP benefits based on the other nine exceptions listed above?
- Are there means of tracking the number of non-American citizens who immediately receive SNAP benefits upon arriving in the United States to ensure there is not widespread fraud and abuse? If no, is this something that can be mandated to states to receive funding for their SNAP programs?
- What is the annual cost to the SNAP benefits program for non-citizens who are seeking asylum?

Questions for the United States Department of Homeland Security:

- How many migrants crossing the southern border are minors?
- What percentage of border crossers claim they are seeking asylum?
- What is the total number of asylum seekers currently awaiting adjudication?
- What is the average wait time for adjudication for asylum seekers?
- What percentage of those seeking asylum are granted asylum?

I am incredibly grateful for the work that the Trump Administration is doing to remediate the devastating impact President Biden's open border policy has had on the American people. I am hopeful that we can continue to work together and partner to alleviate the burden of funding illegal migrant social programs on our U.S. citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, sweeping arch over a series of horizontal strokes.

Rep. Scott DesJarlais, M.D. (TN-04)