

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2025

Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost
30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Attorney General Yost:

As members of the Ohio congressional delegation, we write regarding your decision to not join nor file any lawsuits to protect the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for Ohioans. The people who rely on these benefits are not political pawns, and SNAP is a lifeline for Ohioans that would otherwise go hungry. The Trump Administration's decision to deny Ohioans SNAP benefits is unconscionable and unlawful, and we are deeply concerned by your lack of action.

The SNAP program provides food assistance for eligible low-income individuals and families, including those who are disabled, veterans, seniors, and children. For nearly 1.5 million Ohioans, these benefits are the difference between putting food on the table and going without.¹ These benefits have never stopped, even in past government shutdowns, and will be all the more needed as health care premiums and grocery store prices continue to soar.

On October 24, 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that it would be suspending SNAP benefits due to a lack of funding. However, for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, Congress appropriated a total of \$6 billion in SNAP contingency funding specifically to ensure that benefits are uninterrupted, including during a government shutdown.² The Administration's decision to not fund SNAP contradicts the USDA's own Lapse of Funding Plan released on September 30, 2025, which specifically states that "multi-year contingency funds are also available to fund participant benefits in the event that a lapse occurs in the middle of the fiscal year."³ Moreover, individuals and families that are eligible for SNAP benefits are entitled to them by law.⁴ Not only is the denial of these benefits going to hurt Ohioans, it is also unlawful.

To protect these benefits and keep millions from going hungry, several states, municipalities, charitable and faith-based nonprofit organizations, and business and union organizations have filed lawsuits to release contingency funds. We are disappointed that the state of Ohio is not among those standing up to protect these essential benefits. In the absence of representation in court, Ohioans may not be able to receive the same relief as beneficiaries in other states who filed lawsuits to protect their citizens.

Starting November 1st, people across Ohio will stop receiving benefits. To that end, we are asking for information on your decision not to pursue legal action to protect Ohioans. Specifically, why have you not yet joined or filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration for their unlawful denial of SNAP benefits?

In one of the wealthiest nations in the world, no one should have to go hungry. Congress has appropriated and directed the Trump Administration to use this funding for SNAP, it is time the Administration is held accountable for not providing these essential benefits.

¹ <https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/snap-population-metrics>

² <https://www.congress.gov/118/plaws/publ42/PLAW-118publ42.pdf>

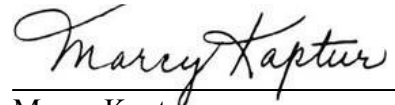
³ <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/26196921-fy2026-usda-lapse-plan-sept30/?q=contingency&mode=document#document/p15>

⁴ <https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title7/chapter51&edition=prelim>

Sincerely,



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



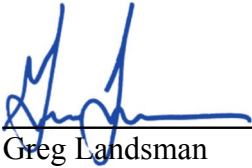
Marcy Kaptur
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