



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 428

Presented to the
Kansas Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

February 2, 2026

FGA Action

Chairman Erickson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 428.

SB 428 would compel Governor Kelly's administration to share data needed to crack down on fraud and abuse in food stamps.

In 2025, President Trump issued an executive order to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse in our nation's welfare systems to ensure that benefits are preserved for the truly needy and that fraudsters are held accountable.¹

As part of the implementation of this order, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requested that states provide basic information about enrollees in food stamps, officially known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).² This data is needed by USDA to ensure that the food stamp program has adequate program integrity measures in place, and that taxpayer dollars are not being misspent.

Unfortunately, the Kelly administration has repeatedly denied the request of the federal government and has prevented the release of this information.

The food stamp program is rife with errors and fraud.

For decades, the food stamp program has been rife with payment errors, abuse, and fraud. As enrollment and costs have surged, so have the costs of fraud and improper payments.

In 2023, more than \$10 billion in food stamps spending was improper.³ This includes individuals fraudulently claiming benefits, and errors made by agencies when checking eligibility. Additionally, hundreds of millions of dollars in benefits have been lost to large-scale theft of food stamp benefits through hacks of benefit cards.⁴

Kansas is part of the problem. In 2024, the SNAP error rate in Kansas was 9.98 percent.⁵ One out of every 10 dollars was improper, a completely unacceptable amount of error.

Just one month into 2026, more than \$55,000 worth of food stamp benefits have already been stolen from more than 350 families in Kansas through card skimming schemes.⁶⁻⁷

This is the waste and fraud that the federal government is trying to stop—and that Governor Kelly is letting slide by not sharing the requested data.

Data sharing helps identify fraud and errors, saving taxpayer dollars.

At least 29 states have already shared the data that USDA requested. USDA has reported that they have uncovered countless instances of waste, fraud, and abuse that had been going undetected until USDA was able to review the data.⁸

For example, USDA has uncovered more than 225,000 fraudulent benefit claims, and nearly 700,000 unauthorized transactions.⁹ They also found more than 500,000 instances of false Social Security numbers.¹⁰

Kansas taxpayers will pay the price unless the governor cooperates with federal efforts.

USDA has indicated that failure to comply with the requested data sharing will result in an administrative penalty that will cost the state more than \$10 million dollars.¹¹

But that's not the only hit to Kansas taxpayers that is on the line. Starting in 2027, states will have to pay for a portion of food stamp benefits based on their error rates.¹² Right now, Kansas is looking at a bill of more than \$40 million dollars unless error rates are brought under control.¹³

SB 428 shouldn't be necessary. The governor and the Department of Children and Families should be happy to work with the federal government to crack down on fraud and waste. But because they're determined to fight against this effort, SB 428 is needed to save Kansas taxpayers millions of dollars and help reduce food stamp errors so that resources are preserved for the truly needy. This bill would require secretaries of welfare agencies in Kansas to work alongside the federal government to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in welfare programs.

I encourage the committee members to support this bill.

¹ Executive Order 14243 (2025).

² Food and Nutrition Service, "SNAP data sharing guidance," U.S. Department of Agriculture (2025), <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/data-sharing-guidance-updated>.

³ Paige Terryberry, "Food stamp program integrity measures will lower costs for states and preserve resources for the truly needy," Foundation for Government Accountability (2025), <https://thefga.org/research/foodstampprogramintegritymeasureswilllowercosts/>.

⁴ Government Accountability Office, "Stolen SNAP benefits cost beneficiaries millions," Government Accountability Office (2025), <https://www.gao.gov/blog/stolen-snap-benefits-cost-beneficiaries-millions>.

⁵ Patrick Penn, "Letter to Governor Laura Kelly," U.S. Department of Agriculture (2025), <https://www.ag.ks.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/24632/638929448810900000>.

⁶ Allison Campbell, "SNAP benefits stolen from more than 40 families in Wichita skimming scam," The Wichita Eagle (2026), <https://www.kansas.com/news/local/crime/article314308871.html>.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Amanda Macias, "Food-stamp fraud numbers expose which states are draining the most taxpayer dollars," Fox News (2025), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/food-stamp-fraud-numbers-expose-which-states-draining-most-taxpayer-dollars>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Jude Joffe-Block, "At least 27 states turned over sensitive data about food stamp recipients to USDA," National Public Radio (2025), <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/16/nx-s1-5533045/snap-privacy-usda-lawsuit>.

¹¹ Patrick Penn, "Letter to Governor Laura Kelly," U.S. Department of Agriculture (2025), <https://www.ag.ks.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/24632/638929448810900000>.

¹² Paige Terryberry, "Food stamp program integrity measures will lower costs for states and preserve resources for the truly needy," Foundation for Government Accountability (2025), <https://thefga.org/research/foodstampprogramintegritymeasureswilllowercosts/>.

¹³ Ibid.