



Senate Bill 363

Presented to

Kansas Senate Committee on Government Efficiency

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Chair Erickson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 363.¹ FGA Action is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving American lives through the principles of free enterprise and the dignity of work.

Welfare programs are meant to be a safety net for those in need, but that net is only as strong as its integrity. Right now, we are seeing a constant stream of news stories highlighting fraud, waste, and abuse in welfare programs across the country.² This isn't just a headline issue or a talking point; it is a serious problem that drains finite resources away from the Kansans who actually qualify for help. When trust in the system breaks down, the first people to pay the price are the truly needy. The best way to protect the safety net for the long term is to verify eligibility upfront, keep records up to date, and stop payments as soon as someone no longer qualifies.

Senate Bill 363 takes several commonsense steps to restore this accountability. First, the bill requires real data-matching across state agencies. This means the system will regularly check records from the Department of Labor, the Department of Revenue, and the Office of Vital Statistics. If a recipient moves out of state, finds a higher-paying job, is incarcerated, or passes away, state systems should be communicating with each other so the state can detect those changes immediately. Monthly and quarterly data matching isn't about being restrictive; it is about basic stewardship of taxpayer dollars and ensuring the rolls reflect reality.

Second, this bill addresses a major vulnerability in Kansas's current process: the practice of "self-attestation." While most people are honest, a system that allows applicants to simply give their word on things like income, residency, or household size—without providing proof before they start receiving benefits—is an invitation for abuse. It also fuels the very headlines that undermine public support for these programs. By requiring actual verification before someone is enrolled, we protect honest applicants from being grouped with bad actors and ensure that limited funds are reserved for those who actually meet the rules.

Third, this bill expands work requirements in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to align with recent changes in federal law.³ Now, able-bodied adults, ages 18 to 64, without children under the age of 14, are required to work, train, or volunteer 20 hours a week to keep their benefits. Previously, this requirement only applied to individuals ages 18 to 54 without children. This requirement doesn't apply to those who are disabled, seniors, pregnant women, or those going through rehabilitation programs.

Furthermore, Senate Bill 363 ensures that major policy changes, such as work requirement waivers or optional exemptions, cannot occur through administrative action alone. By requiring legislative approval, the bill brings transparency to the process and ensures the people's representatives have the final say on the rules of the safety net.

The goal here is simple: Kansas must protect the integrity of the programs that vulnerable Kansans depend on. If not, the state will risk budget cuts and massive federal penalties. Due to high error rates in programs like Medicaid and SNAP, Kansas could be on the hook for tens or hundreds of millions of dollars in penalties under accountability measures from the One, Big, Beautiful Bill.^{4,5} That is real money that would come directly out of the state budget—money that could otherwise go to schools, roads, or the truly needy.

Kansans are generous people, but they aren't gullible. They expect their tax dollars to be protected and for assistance to reach the children, seniors, and people with disabilities who cannot afford a system that loses its credibility. Senate Bill 363 reinforces that trust by prioritizing responsibility and program integrity. I respectfully ask for your support of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

¹ KS SB 363 (2026), https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/sb363/.

² Kaia Hubbard and Joe Walsh, "Minnesota lawmakers highlight fraud schemes at hearing before House committee," (2026), <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/minnesota-fraud-schemes-house-oversight-hearing/>.

³ One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Pub. L. No. 119-21, Section 10102 (2025).

⁴ One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Pub. L. No. 119-21, Section 71106 (2025). This section eliminates the federal authority to waive limitations on erroneous payments, effectively removing federal matching funds for states whose Medicaid eligibility error rate exceeds 3 percent.

⁵ One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Pub. L. No. 119-21, Section 10105 (2025). This section establishes a state-matching requirement for SNAP benefit costs. States with a payment error rate of 6 percent or higher must pay between 5 and 15 percent of their total food assistance allotments.