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Oral Testimony in Support of DCF's Budget Request for SNAP Administration  
Senate Ways & Means Committee

Chair Billinger, Ranking Member Pettey, and Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of the governor's and the Department for Children and Families' \$12.1 million budget request that would fund the state's SNAP-related administrative costs.<sup>1</sup>

Kansas Appleseed has a long history of advocating for programs that reduce hunger and food insecurity in the Sunflower State. The budget request in question would ensure that the state is paying its newly mandated portion of the administrative costs of SNAP, per changes enacted by the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act, herein referred to as HR 1. Doing so would prevent disruptions in service to the Kansas families who depend on SNAP to afford nutritious food and live healthier lives.

HR 1 was signed into law in the summer of 2025 and enacted significant changes to the way SNAP is funded by the state and federal governments. Relevant to DCF's budget request is the new division of administrative costs. Prior to HR 1, state governments and the federal government equally divided the expenses associated with administering SNAP. But effective October 1, 2025, the beginning of federal FY 2026, the state must pay 75% of the administrative costs of SNAP.<sup>2</sup> Fulfilling this budget request, therefore, would ensure Kansas is in line with federal law.

If the state fails to adequately fund its portion of SNAP administrative costs, Kansas could be subjected to an even greater fiscal obligation beginning in federal FY 2028. For the first time in the history of SNAP, states may be required to partially cover the cost of benefits if their payment error rates exceed 6%.<sup>3</sup> In FY 2024, \$408 million in SNAP benefits were spent by Kansas households and the state had an error rate of 9.98%.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Kelly, L. (2026, January). The Governor's Budget Report. Topeka, KS; Office of the Governor.

<sup>2</sup> Villa, M., & Scott, S. (2025, September 29). SNAP Changes Will Upend State Budgets. Center on Poverty and Inequality.

<https://www.georgetownpoverty.org/issues/snap-changes-will-upend-state-budg,ets/>

<sup>3</sup> Congressional Budget Office. (2025, August 11). Estimated Effects of Public Law 119-21 on Participation and Benefits Under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Washington, D.C.

<sup>4</sup> Nchako, C. (2025, January 21). A Closer Look at Who Benefits from SNAP: State-by-State Fact Sheets. Food Assistance.

Maintaining this error rate would mean starting in federal FY 2028, the state would have to pay for 10% of the costs of SNAP benefits, or approximately \$41 million.<sup>5</sup> Combined with the new administrative expenses, new SNAP spending would rise by over \$50 million.<sup>6</sup>

To avoid this spike in state-level SNAP spending, it is imperative that we fulfill DCF's \$12.1 million budget request. According to DCF, without these additional funds, the SNAP program administration would have to be reduced, especially the eligibility staff. Reductions in staffing could increase the SNAP payment error rate due to heavier workloads, delayed benefit reviews, and diminished accuracy. As previously stated, Kansas already sits at an error rate of 9.98%. If the error rate rises above 10% by or after federal FY 2028, HR 1 would force the state to pay 15% of benefit costs—equivalent to \$61 million.<sup>7</sup>

At a time when the state is projected to face budgetary shortfalls by FY 2028, it is reasonable for the legislature to tighten its belt.<sup>8</sup> Due to HR 1, however, the state's share of SNAP administrative costs is a budget item that needs more financial support. Although an enhancement of \$12.1 million may seem steep, investing that now could save the state upwards of an additional \$41 million annually in the future.

I urge you to fully fund this budget request to ensure that DCF can adequately recruit and train SNAP administrators, reduce the error rate, and provide high-quality, uninterrupted service to the 187,000 Kansans who rely on SNAP to live happy, healthy lives.<sup>9</sup>

Thank you,

Haley Kottler

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<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Kansas>; National Grocers Association. (2025). National Grocers Association Estimated Impact of BBB SNAP Changes on State Budgets. Washington, D.C.

<sup>5</sup> Nchako, C. (2025, January 21). A Closer Look at Who Benefits from SNAP: State-by-State Fact Sheets. Food Assistance.

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Kansas>

<sup>6</sup> National Grocers Association. (2025). National Grocers Association Estimated Impact of BBB SNAP Changes on State Budgets. Washington, D.C.

<sup>7</sup> *H.R. 1 and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): What Counties Should Know*. National Association of Counties. (2025, October 31).

<https://www.naco.org/resource/hr-1-and-supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap-what-counties-should-know#:~:text=119%2D21%29%20Analysis,not%20be%20responsible%20for%20benefits>

<sup>8</sup> Smith, S. (2025, March 27). *Kansas Legislature passes spending plan that would put state \$460M in the hole within three years*. Kansas Reflector.

<https://kansasreflector.com/2025/03/27/kansas-legislature-passes-spending-plan-that-would-put-state-460m-in-the-hole-within-three-years/>

<sup>9</sup> Nchako, C. (2025, January 21). A Closer Look at Who Benefits from SNAP: State-by-State Fact Sheets. Food Assistance.

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