



The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

August 20, 2019

Dear Secretary Perdue:

We write to provide comment and share our support for the Department's proposed rule regarding broad-based categorical eligibility (BBCE) for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), or food stamp, benefits (RIN 0584-AE62). This rule is an important step toward reducing fraud and abuse and ensuring the food stamp program remains focused on supporting the truly needy.

Under both the Clinton and Obama administrations, states were granted the flexibility to abuse broad-based categorical eligibility as a means by which to enroll non-eligible individuals in the food stamp program. The loophole allows states to enroll people who are simply "authorized to receive" a welfare brochure, regardless of whether they meet federal eligibility criteria. As a result, more than five million people with assets and/or incomes above federal thresholds are receiving food stamp benefits today.

Thousands of our truly needy constituents rely on this important program to put food on the table, but this loophole has allowed finite taxpayer resources to be given to those without real need, including millionaires. With a national debt of over \$22.5 trillion, it is absolutely critical that we prioritize welfare funding for the truly needy, and we believe this rule will do just that.

Closing the BBCE loophole will move those with assets and/or income above statutory limits off the food stamp program—saving taxpayers billions of dollars each year—and will preserve resources for the nation's most vulnerable. Additionally, the attached report suggests that closing BBCE loopholes will also help reduce states' administrative costs, granting our states an opportunity to redirect more funding toward people instead of programs.

We applaud the Trump administration and the Department for its commitment to refocusing the food stamp program on the truly needy, and we are ready to serve as a resource as you finalize this important rule. We look forward to working with you to implement a strong food stamp program that supports the nutritional needs of our truly needy constituents.

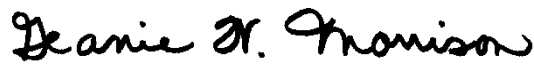
Sincerely,

State Representative Dan Flynn
Vice President

State Representative Matt Krause
Vice President



State Representative Dennis Paul
Secretary



State Representative Geanie Morrison
Past President



State Representative Cole Hefner
Policy Liaison



State Representative Greg Bonnen, MD
Board Member



State Representative Phil King
Board Member



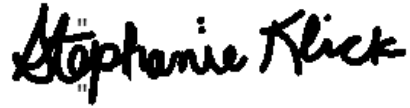
State Representative Candy Noble
Board Member



State Senator Donna Campbell, MD



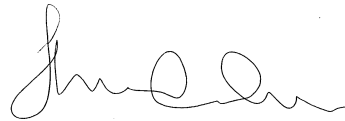
State Senator Lois Kolkhorst



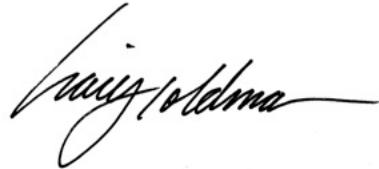
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State Representative Tom Craddick
Past President



State Representative Tom Oliverson, MD
Policy Liaison



State Representative Craig Goldman
Board Member



State Representative Tan Parker
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State Senator Brian Birdwell



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State Representative Angie Chen Button



State Representative Giovanni Capriglione



State Representative Jay Dean



State Representative Cody Harris



State Representative Mike Lang



State Representative Ben Leman



State Representative Steve Allison



State Representative DeWayne Burns



State Representative Dustin Burrows



State Representative Briscoe Cain



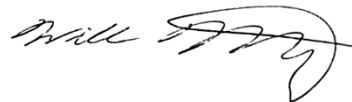
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State Representative Brooks Landgraf



State Representative Jeff Leach



State Representative Will Metcalf



State Representative Mayes Middleton



State Representative Scott Sanford



State Representative Reggie Smith



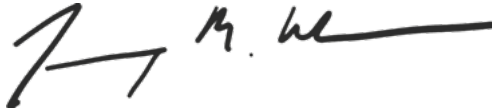
State Representative Lynn Stucky, DVM



State Representative Ed Thompson



State Representative Steve Toth



State Representative Terry Wilson



State Representative Rick Miller



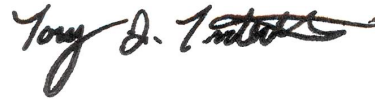
State Representative Matt Schaefer



State Representative Drew Springer



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State Representative Tony Tinderholt



State Representative James White