

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

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<http://oversight.house.gov>

February 8, 2017

The Honorable Gene L. Dodaro
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

In fiscal year 2016, the federal government provided \$67 billion in benefits to help approximately 44 million people purchase food through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), in partnership with the states, administers the program. Households apply for benefits in the state in which they reside, and states assess eligibility and grant benefits. States provide federally-funded SNAP benefits to recipients on electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards that can be used to purchase food from more than 260,000 authorized retailers across the country. Although federal law allows recipients to use their benefits at any authorized SNAP retailer nationwide, and SNAP recipients may purchase food outside of their state of residence for varied reasons, such as temporary travel or employment in another state, such activity may also be an indicator of fraud. In light of this, in recent years, some states have taken steps to analyze SNAP recipients' out-of-state uses of EBT cards to identify and address fraudulent SNAP benefit use.

FNS reports that the agency has taken steps in recent years to assist state efforts to identify and address fraudulent SNAP benefit use. The extent, however, to which the states and FNS have focused on analyzing out-of-state EBT transactions as part of these efforts is unknown.

We request that the Government Accountability Office review:

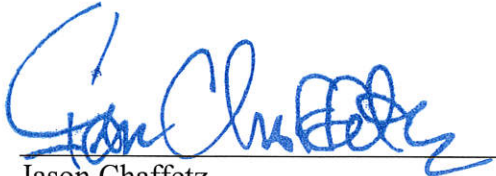
1. State efforts to analyze out-of-state use of SNAP EBT cards and their findings;
2. The extent to which FNS has assisted states in these efforts; and

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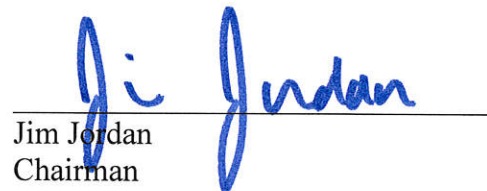
3. How, if at all, FNS can improve efforts to identify fraudulent out-of-state uses of SNAP EBT cards.

If you have any questions about this request, please have your staff contact Kevin Eichinger of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman



Jim Jordan
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health Care,
Benefits, and Administrative Rules



Mark Meadows
Chairman
Subcommittee on Government Operations

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings, Ranking Minority Member

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules

The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly, Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Government Operations