



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

May 14, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Rollins:

I am writing to formally request a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service to prohibit the purchase of unhealthy, highly processed food using Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

SNAP serves more than 3.2 million Texans each year and provides more than \$7 billion in taxpayer funding to support access to food for those in need. SNAP was created to increase access to nutritious food; however, many SNAP purchases are for food with little to no nutritious value.

Under the Trump administration, for the first time since the program was authorized, states can take steps to eliminate the opportunity to buy junk food with SNAP benefits and assure that taxpayer dollars are used only to purchase healthy, nutritious food. We appreciate your efforts to allow states to implement innovative changes to support our citizens to lead healthy and productive lives.

Therefore, this letter serves as a formal request from the State of Texas to prohibit SNAP benefits from being used to purchase sweetened drinks and candy.

I look forward to the opportunities this approach will bring to improve the health and quality of life for low-income Texans.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott
Governor