



April 11, 2016

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Aderholt:

As you know, multiple states have recently enacted drug-testing provisions as part of the state-based requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, otherwise known as SNAP or food stamps. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service administers this program at the federal level, but disagrees with these drug-testing efforts.

We believe that Congress specifically gave states the flexibility to decide whether to implement this common-sense reform in the 1996 Welfare Reform Act. This Act provides that "States shall not be prohibited by the Federal Government from testing welfare recipients for use of controlled substances nor from sanctioning welfare recipients who test positive for use of controlled substances." 21 U.S.C. § 862(b).

Since SNAP and other welfare programs typically have job training requirements as a core element, we write today to express our sincere confidence that drug testing recipients of SNAP benefits is not only lawful, but will aid in our ability to move individuals off of this welfare program and back into the workforce as productive members of their communities. After all, drug testing and potentially getting treatment to be drug free doesn't make it harder to get assistance; it makes it easier to get a job.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Scott Walker".

Governor Scott Walker  
Wisconsin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Doug Ducey".

Governor Doug Ducey  
Arizona

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "C.L. Butch Otter".

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Idaho



Governor Sam Brownback  
Kansas



Governor Matt Bevin  
Kentucky



Governor Paul LePage  
Maine



Governor Pete Ricketts  
Nebraska



Governor Mary Fallin  
Oklahoma



Governor Nikki Haley  
South Carolina



Governor Greg Abbott  
Texas



Governor Gary Herbert  
Utah

CC: The Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Michael Conaway, Chairman, House Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable Pat Roberts, Chairman, Senate Agriculture Committee  
The Honorable Jerry Moran, Chairman, Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

