

The Honorable Patrick Morrissey  
Governor of West Virginia  
State Capitol  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Charleston, WV 25305

Friday, August 8, 2025

On July 23, 2025, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) [issued guidance](#) to states to move ahead with [implementing](#) President Donald J. Trump's executive order by creating a national SNAP information database including the personal identifying information of SNAP participants and their families.

This [guidance](#) directed states to share the names, dates of birth, social security numbers, and addresses of persons participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with the USDA, an unprecedented request according to legal experts and former USDA officials, one of which [underscored](#) "FNS has never had a nationwide list of everyone receiving SNAP benefits, let alone detailed personal information like their address or income".

We, the undersigned, ask Governor Patrick Morrissey to refuse to comply with this outrageous act of federal overreach of his constituents' private and personal data without clear parameters of how USDA intends to use it. This is especially warranted as the directive is currently being [litigated in](#) the courts over concerns the request to share this sensitive data violates the Constitution and state and federal privacy laws in addition to USDA's own authority.

West Virginia SNAP recipients share their personal information with the state SNAP agency because they trust it will be used only to help them access food assistance. That trust is grounded in longstanding state and federal laws and standards that strictly limit how this data can be used.

Now, the USDA is attempting to bypass those protections—pressuring states to hand over sensitive data for unrelated and undisclosed purposes.

If Governor Morrissey complies with this act of federal overreach, not only will our friends and neighbors who rely on federal food assistance have their private information compromised, it will have a chilling effect whereby fewer families who struggle with food insecurity will feel comfortable participating in the SNAP food assistance program, undermining Governor Morrissey's efforts to improve health in our state through his [Four Pillars of a Healthy West Virginia](#) plan.

We join together to call on West Virginia and Governor Morrissey to protect the private information of West Virginia's SNAP participants and not comply with this federal overreach while its legality and constitutionality is still being [determined](#) in the courts.

Signed,

ACLU of WV  
American Friends Service Committee-West Virginia  
Brooke Hancock Family Resource Network, Inc.  
Community Connections  
Community Lutheran Partners, Inc.  
Eating Protein Saves Lives, Inc.  
Facing Hunger Food Bank  
Harmony Mental Health  
NAMI in West Virginia  
Nonprofit411  
Pleasants County Committee on Family Issues, Inc.  
Raleigh Co. Community Council  
Rise Up WV  
Sisters of St. Joseph Health and Wellness Foundation  
TEAM for West Virginia Children  
The Arc of West Virginia  
The REACH Initiative  
West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy  
West Virginia Food and Farm Coalition  
WV Citizen Action  
WV NOW  
WV Prevention Solutions, Inc.