

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8646, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MS. STANSBURY OF NEW MEXICO**

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

1 SEC. _____. (a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may
2 be cited as the “SNAP BACK Act.”

3 (b) APPROPRIATION.—In fiscal year 2026 and each
4 fiscal year thereafter, for any period during which interim
5 continuing appropriations or full-year appropriations for
6 that fiscal year have not been enacted for the Department
7 of Agriculture, there are appropriated to the Secretary of
8 Agriculture, such sums as are necessary to provide unin-
9 terrupted benefits under—

10 (1) the supplemental nutrition assistance pro-
11 gram established under the Food and Nutrition Act
12 of 2008 (7 U.S.C 2011 et seq.); and

13 (2) the special supplemental nutrition program
14 for women, infants, and children established by sec-
15 tion 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42
16 U.S.C. 1786).

17 (c) REQUIREMENT TO RELEASE FUNDS.—

18 (1) IMMEDIATE OBLIGATION OF FUNDS.—Not-
19 withstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-

1 retary of Agriculture shall, immediately upon enact-
2 ment of this Act, obligate and make available all
3 funds appropriated by Congress for—

4 (A) the supplemental nutrition assistance
5 program; and

6 (B) the special supplemental nutrition pro-
7 gram for women, infants, and children.

8 (2) PROHIBITION ON WITHHOLDING.—No offi-
9 cer or employee of the executive branch, including
10 the Office of Management and Budget, or U.S. De-
11 partment of Agriculture may withhold, delay, or oth-
12 erwise impede the release or obligation of such funds
13 for any reason not explicitly authorized by statute.

14 (3) REQUIREMENT TO ENROLL.—

15 (A) CONTINUED ENROLLMENT.—The Sec-
16 retary of Agriculture shall ensure that, all State
17 agencies administering SNAP or WIC continue
18 to accept, process, and approve applications for
19 individuals and households that meet the statu-
20 tory eligibility requirements for such programs.

21 (B) ACCESS TO BENEFITS.—Individuals
22 determined eligible under subparagraph (A)
23 shall receive benefits as soon as funds are avail-
24 able, and no later than five days after the Sec-

1 retary obligates the funds made available under
2 paragraph (1).

3 (C) PROHIBITION ON ENROLLMENT
4 FREEZE.—No Federal or State official may in-
5 stitute an enrollment freeze, waiting list, or
6 other restriction on participation in SNAP or
7 WIC due to any delay or withholding of funds.

8 (d) CONTINUITY OF EBT CARD ACCESS AND PROC-
9 ESSING.—

10 (1) UNINTERRUPTED OPERATION.—The Sec-
11 retary of Agriculture shall ensure the uninterrupted
12 operation and functionality of all Electronic Benefit
13 Transfer (EBT) systems used to distribute SNAP
14 and WIC benefits, including during any lapse in ap-
15 propriations or due to an administrative delay.

16 (2) TIMELY DISBURSEMENT.—State agencies
17 administering SNAP or WIC shall, upon receipt of
18 Federal funds, immediately load benefits onto EBT
19 cards for eligible households without additional
20 delay.

21 (3) PROHIBITION ON SUSPENSION OF BENE-
22 FITS.—No Federal or State agency may suspend,
23 deactivate, or otherwise restrict the use of EBT
24 cards due to any temporary funding delay.

1 (e) REIMBURSEMENT OF STATES OR TRIBES.—The
2 Secretary of Agriculture shall reimburse any State of fed-
3 erally recognized American Indian Tribe that makes an
4 emergency appropriation of State or tribal funds to cover
5 a lapse in Federal funding for these programs up to the
6 amount expended by the State or tribe.

