

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



July 30, 2025

Barbara C. Guinn

Commissioner, Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

40 North Pearl Street

Albany, NY 12243

Dear Commissioner Guinn,

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding your department's recent statements on proposed federal changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The tone and content of these communications are overtly political and inappropriate for a government agency tasked with serving all New Yorkers.

We understand Governor Hochul is gearing up for a tough re-election, but the use of state resources to amplify partisan messaging must cease immediately. Language such as describing the federal changes as "cruel" or "unthinkable" more closely resembles campaign rhetoric than the neutral, fact-based analysis expected from your department. These talking points are best left to the Democratic National Committee, not parroted by a state agency that performs vital public service.

The new requirements that able-bodied adults between the ages of 18 and 54 work a minimum of 20 hours per week is neither "cruel" nor "unthinkable." It is a reasonable measure to ensure the program's integrity and reserve benefits for those who truly need them.

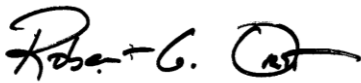
Rather than focusing your public commentary on Republican members of Congress, we urge you to direct your attention to the serious issue of SNAP fraud in New York State. Between 2022 and 2024, SNAP theft in New York totaled over \$40 million. Though our state accounts for just seven percent of SNAP recipients nationwide, we are responsible for 18 percent of the fraud.¹ That discrepancy suggests urgent reforms are needed at the state level to protect taxpayers and preserve the program for honest recipients.

¹ [A Simple Fix Could Stop Millions in Food Stamp... | New York Focus](#)

As Commissioner of the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, your obligation is to serve all New Yorkers, not just those who share your political views. We strongly encourage you to step back from partisan messaging and work collaboratively with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to deliver meaningful solutions that improve the lives of all New Yorkers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



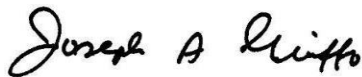
Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd District



Senator Andrew Lanza
24th District



Senator Dean Murray
3rd District



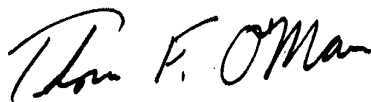
Senator Joseph Griffo
53rd District



Senator George Borrello
57th District



Senator Pam Helming
54th District



Senator Tom O'Mara
58th District



Senator Anthony Palumbo
1st District



Senator Daniel G. Stec
45th District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick
9th District



Senator Alexis Weik
8th District



Senator Steve Chan
17th District



Senator William Weber
38th District



Senator Steve Rhoads
5th District