



STATE OF ARIZONA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATIE HOBBS  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

February 20, 2026

The Honorable Steve Montenegro  
Speaker of the House  
Arizona House of Representatives  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: HB2206, SNAP; error rate; forensic audit

Speaker Montenegro,

Today I vetoed HB2206. This past summer, out of touch politicians in Washington enacted H.R. 1, a partisan budget that stripped food assistance and healthcare from hundreds of thousands of Arizonans. And as if that wasn't enough, they held the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) hostage during the federal government shutdown, and then proceeded to increase health insurance premiums for working families who rely on marketplace subsidies. From the grocery aisle to the doctor's office, Washington's failures continue to make life harder for everyday Arizonans.

With H.R. 1 now on the books, and with significant penalties to come if operational changes are not made this year, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) has already taken decisive action to improve the accuracy of SNAP benefit determinations. These include: enhancing eligibility verifications, increasing staffing and training focused on accuracy, and investing in technology solutions. This legislation would duplicate these efforts and disrupt the operations of an already overburdened agency.

H.R. 1 is also full of unfunded mandates, directly contributing to significant staffing shortages at DES, resulting in delayed case decisions and frustrated callers. In response, I stepped up and allocated \$7.5 million to increase capacity for DES to better serve Arizonans. The legislation you sent me contains yet more unfunded mandates and not a dollar to help our state agencies implement these changes now, or to modernize our systems for the future.

SNAP is the most robust and effective anti-hunger tool we have in Arizona—I know this

firsthand. It's also the most secure, thanks to strong anti-fraud measures and oversight. Instead of creating more needless frustration for Arizona families, I invite you to join me in actually lowering costs for them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KH', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Katie Hobbs  
Governor  
State of Arizona

cc:

The Honorable Warren Petersen  
The Honorable Nick Kupper  
The Honorable Adrian Fontes