



May 1, 2024

Honorable Jodey Arrington  
United States House of Representatives  
Chairman, Budget Committee  
204-E Cannon Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**CAROL CHRISTIAN**  
*KS – President*

**ASHLEY WILKES**  
*FL – President-Elect*

**CHRISTOPHER O’NEIL**  
*FL – Vice-President*

**ELLIS BRYSON**  
*WV – Secretary*

**ANDREW PETITT**  
*WV – Treasurer*

**LAURA LINDSEY**  
*KS – Business Manager*  
[UCOWFmail@gmail.com](mailto:UCOWFmail@gmail.com)

**ANDY McCLENAHAN**  
**DAWN ROYAL**  
*Co-Chairmen Directors*  
*Intergovernmental*  
*Committee*

[Dawn.Royal.UCOWF@gmail.com](mailto:Dawn.Royal.UCOWF@gmail.com)  
[Andrew.K.McClenahan@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.K.McClenahan@gmail.com)

United Council on  
Welfare Fraud  
PO Box 164  
Westmoreland, KS 66549  
785.477.5424  
[www.ucowf.net](http://www.ucowf.net)

**RE: Op-Ed, The Hill**

Dear Representative Arrington,

I am writing on behalf of the United Council on Welfare Fraud (UCOWF) to express our strong support for your recent initiatives highlighted in your op-ed published in The Hill, titled “*It’s Time to Stop Talking and Start Acting on Fraud and Improper Payments.*” Your commitment to addressing the surging tide of wasteful and erroneous government spending aligns closely with UCOWF’s ongoing efforts to enhance the integrity of public assistance programs across the United States.

As you may know, UCOWF is the only national non-profit comprised of local and state welfare fraud investigators has been at the forefront of combating fraud, waste, and abuse within social service programs through proactive collaboration, advocacy, and training for over 50 years. Our recent “Improving SNAP: Program Integrity Initiatives” document outlines comprehensive strategies like those you propose, focusing on tightening recipient and retailer verifications, enhancing administrative oversight, and leveraging technology to secure the integrity of benefits distribution. Make no mistake, the vast majority of “improper payments” are fraud, and we believe our ranked and order initiatives directly align with your editorial.

Your approach to reforming how improper payments are managed, particularly in high-error programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and SNAP, resonates with our top initiatives. We commend your plan to realign incentives for states and agencies to recover improper payments and applaud your efforts to ensure that these savings are reinvested into further fraud prevention mechanisms. This not only fosters accountability but also secures resources for the most vulnerable populations, ensuring that public funds serve their intended purpose effectively and efficiently. Incentivizing states to introduce industry best-practices in identity (Know Your Customer) and available data verifications of eligibility factors on those seeking to access taxpayer funds is a refreshing, common-sense initiative.

We are also supportive of your proposal to amend the scoring method of the Congressional Budget Office to reflect long-term savings from anti-fraud measures. It’s a necessary reform that promises to enhance fiscal responsibility and transparency at the federal level. Our program integrity initiatives have positive ROI on state and federal budgets. Your acknowledgment of the need for strong oversight of regular and emergency spending directly parallels our advocacy for robust identity verification measures and improved data sharing across federal and state programs. Nearly every state administering federal public assistance programs place a dubious emphasis on client/applicant’s adherence to the “honor system.” By not addressing fraud prior to benefit issuance, we are perpetually playing catch-up to fraudsters (including transnational) in an inefficient “pay and chase” model.





UCOWF looks forward to the opportunity to work alongside your office and the House Budget Committee to support and transform these proposals into actionable policies. By combining our expertise and resources, we can significantly advance our mutual goal of safeguarding taxpayer dollars and reinforcing the integrity of government programs for our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

Please feel free to contact us at [ucowfmail@gmail.com](mailto:ucowfmail@gmail.com) to discuss how we can collaboratively foster these initiatives or if you need further details on our program integrity efforts.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to this crucial cause. We anticipate great strides in enhancing program integrity with your continued advocacy and action.

Sincerely,

Carrol Christian  
President  
United Council on Welfare Fraud  
[www.ucowf.net](http://www.ucowf.net)

Attachment: UCOWF's "Improving SNAP: Program Integrity Initiatives"

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