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February 26, 2026

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor of Minnesota
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

I write today to inform you that you and your Administration are this month's recipients of my Golden Fleece Award.

Let me be clear, I fully recognize that recent events in Minneapolis have impacted Minnesota and the nation. It is a tragedy whenever someone loses their life. For that reason, I support Congress providing appropriate oversight into events in Minnesota, including the shooting deaths of Renee Goode and Alex Pretti.

That said, I am writing to address a separate matter that predates both of those events and is nonetheless worthy of attention and, indeed, resolution. The uncovering of massive fraud in recent months has highlighted the pervasive, almost systemic, theft that has occurred in the State of Minnesota. Federal prosecutors are now estimating that the level of this brazen abuse is approximately \$9 billion.¹

Welfare programs, including those for childcare, nutrition, and health care, are a promise to those who truly need assistance. Those who would steal from children and others via fraudulent application or direction of funds deserve to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. I am, therefore, happy to hear that the Department of Justice is working to ensure that those responsible are discovered and prosecuted.

¹ CBS News, Jonah Kaplan, Joe Walsh, Everything We Know About Minnesota's Massive Fraud Schemes, January 2025

The discovery of this massive fraud began with the investigation of Feeding Our Future, a program that purported to use the Federal Child Nutrition Program to serve meals to over 6,000 school children every day.² In reality, most of this money was funneled to the organizers of Feeding Our Future instead of the children they claimed to serve. In November 2025, the United States Attorney's Office announced its 78th arrest in this scheme, which frankly, encompasses an ecosystem of organizations like Brilliant Minds Services LLC, Faladcare Inc, Leo Human Services LLC, and Liberty Plus LLC.³

Even earlier, in September, the U.S. Attorney charged several people with defrauding Medicaid of money earmarked to help people find and keep stable housing arrangements.⁴ The perpetrators of the scheme, as in the case of Feeding Our Future, claimed to provide services and payments under the program but never actually delivered or did so at inflated cost. Such criminal theft is best summarized by one of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agents who helped uncover the various schemes. Special Agent in Charge, Alvin M. Winston Sr. of the FBI Minneapolis Station said, "Exploiting this program undermines the financial and physical security of the community amid a housing and addiction crisis."⁵

Finally, and perhaps most egregiously, federal prosecutors discovered that Smart Therapy, a company owned by individuals who were also involved in Feeding Our Future, fraudulently claimed to provide Applied Behavior Analysis therapy (ABA therapy) under the Early Intensive Developmental and Behavioral Intervention program, a benefit of Minnesota's Medicaid program.⁶ ABA therapy is administered to children on the autism spectrum to improve their social skills.⁷ Under the scheme, services, including ABA therapy, were claimed but not performed, their cost inflated, or were provided by unqualified individuals.⁸ In some cases, families were even offered kickbacks to enroll their children. Clearly, Minnesota is in need of greater oversight of how it conducts and programs efforts paid for with federal dollars.

The fraud that happened under your watch is concerning. Federal taxpayers, through Congress, gave funds to Minnesota to carry out myriad programs designed to help vulnerable individuals. Your administration provided minimal oversight, which resulted in these dollars being stolen. In essence, I worry that your inaction has caused, even encouraged, these criminals to steal from hardworking Americans, including hardworking Arkansans.

² U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota, 78th Defendant Charged in Feeding Our Future Fraud Scheme, November 2025

³ Ibid.

⁴ U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota, Defendants Charged in First Wave of Housing Stabilization Fraud Cases, September 2025

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota, First Defendant Charged in Autism Fraud Scheme, September 2025

⁷ Mayo Clinic, Autism: Strategies for treatments and therapies, April 2023

⁸ U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Minnesota, First Defendant Charged in Autism Fraud Scheme, September 2025

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Should you need additional authority from Congress to identify and eliminate further fraud, I urge you to notify me. I would also welcome any technical assistance you can provide to help us correct statutory issues that may have contributed to this costly failure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "French Hill". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

French Hill
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Keith Ellison, Attorney General of Minnesota