STATE *of* NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

LINCOLN

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-23

Prohibiting the Use of TANF Funds for the Purchase of Luxury and Non-Essential Items

WHEREAS, Nebraska is committed to providing assistance to low-income families with children through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funded Aid to Dependent Children (ADC); and

WHEREAS, TANF funded ADC benefits are intended to help eligible low-income families with children pay for ongoing basic physical needs, including food, clothing, housing, utilities, household goods and personal care; and

WHEREAS, these benefits could be used to purchase goods or services which do not help meet the basic physical needs of low-income families with children and waste taxpayer-funded resources; and

WHEREAS, lawful benefit recipients may be coerced into misusing benefits or have benefits stolen from them; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of families and children who are eligible for TANF funded ADC benefits and Nebraska taxpayers that certain inappropriate, luxury and non-essential goods or services be restricted; and

WHEREAS, to allow these benefits to be used to purchase or to be exchanged for goods or services that do not meet the actual physical needs of low-income families with children will deprive children and families in Nebraska of much needed resources and thus will be harmful and detrimental to low-income families with children and the taxpayers of Nebraska.

NOW, THEREFORE, , I, Jim Pillen, Governor of the State of Nebraska by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, do hereby order and direct:

The Department of Health and Human Services to submit a SPA to the ACF seeking to prohibit the use of TANF funded ADC benefits for the following goods or services: Tobacco, nicotine, vaping, and other associated products; Drugs, intoxicants, and related products; Pornography, sexually explicit materials, and adult-oriented goods or services; Entertainment goods, subscriptions, and services such as entertainment tickets, theme parks, and subscriptions/memberships; Body art, body piercings, cosmetic services, and luxury items such as tattoos, spa services, and tanning; Psychic, fortune-telling, and divination goods or services; Political contributions; Lottery tickets and entries, sports wagers, and bets; Music, video, and gaming streaming subscriptions; Video games, in-game currency, downloadable entertainment content, and virtual goods; Jewelry and luxury watches; and Unrestricted cash withdrawals.

The Department of Health and Human Services shall request to prohibit cash withdrawals except at SNAP-authorized retailers through cash-back purchases or in-person withdrawals in a financial institution.

The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop policies and procedures to implement changes approved by ACF to restrict the use of TANF funded ADC benefits for the purchase of inappropriate, luxury and non-essential goods and services.

The Department of Health and Human Services shall submit the SPA to ACF immediately.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and cause the Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed on this 9th day of October, 2026.

Jim Pillen, Governor
State of Nebraska

Attest:

Robert Evnen, Secretary of State
State of Nebraska