Testimony to Legislative Budget Board re HHSC

Adonis Gutierrez, Mission Resident

Sept. 24, 2026 | gutierrezadonis18@gmail.com

Honorable Chair and Members of the Legislative Budget Board:

Good morning. My name is Adonis Gutierrez, and I'm from Mission, Texas. I appreciate the opportunity to testify this morning on SNAP.

I grew up on SNAP. My parents worked all day, and SNAP made sure my siblings and I had food and could have three meals a day. It wasn't just about one meal - the food assistance helped my parents keep working, take care of us, and keep our family going.

Now I'm 30, and I've had to use SNAP myself when I was unemployed and struggling to find work. Having that support meant I could focus on getting back on my feet instead of worrying about how I was going to eat.

My story isn't the only one. A lot of families are trying to balance work, bills, kids, and food at the same time. My ask is that Texas put more money into SNAP administration and make sure HHSC has enough staff to process applications, renewals, and answer people when they need help. Specifically, HHSC's recent LAR does not include the nearly 2 billion dollars needed for the state to pay out benefits in SNAP. The legislature must "fully fund" SNAP in its current form in Texas and not make cuts.

I also want to see stronger partnerships with food banks and community organizations that are already helping families. These organizations are already trusted in our communities, so let's give them the support to help connect people to SNAP and other food resources.

SNAP helped my family function when I was growing up, and it helped me when I needed it as an adult. Texas families deserve that same support.

Adonis Gutierrez

gutierrezadonis18@gmail.com
undertheumbrellargv@gmail.com
https://linktr.ee/Under_the_Umbrella_RGV

This advocate participated in programming that equips Texans most impacted by state budget decisions with the knowledge, skills, and support to advocate for policies that strengthen our communities.