



EVRWP NEWS

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT ?????

Sunday, August 23, 2026 | Vol. 36

“FRAUD INCORPORATED”

What on earth is going on???? It seems like everyday we hear about a new fraud scheme in the US being exposed and criminals being arrested and prosecuted for millions of dollars stolen from the country's taxpayers.

Today, we heard about a SNAP benefit scheme in Pennsylvania, where actual store operators were using “rogue EBT terminals” to conduct fraudulent transactions. A rogue EBT terminal is operated by an unapproved retailer, using a federal number issued to a legitimate approved retailer to fraudulently process SNAP transactions.

According to the article, the State of Pennsylvania has “prevented over \$206 million worth of public [SNAP] benefits from being fraudulently distributed to those not entitled to assistance”, and have filed charges against 1,751 defendants for a total theft of \$11.4 million in SNAP program funds. However, fraud in Pennsylvania is not limited to SNAP benefits, nor are they the only state to experience the fraud.

I had often thought to myself that once the government switched from actual "food stamp" paper coupons previously issued to and used by SNAP recipients to a type of “debit card” where cash to purchase food was automatically deposited into their account, that fraud was inevitable. It was not too difficult to “see the writing on the wall”. Any independent auditor would tell you that this type of program was ripe for fraud.

Can You Believe It?? YES!!!

As you may recall, we have been reporting in our newsletters on the extent of the fraud in California. Our own Rep. Kevin Kiley has “taken aim at Gavin Newsom”, by calling California the ‘fraud capital of America’ after a nonpartisan State Auditor report was released in December 2025, exposing \$76+ billion in fraud and waste under Governor Newsom. The audit report placed eight state agencies on a “high-risk” list due to waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement.

In addition to the 2025 report, “separate audits and reports have spotlighted massive spending with questionable outcomes in key areas”. In 2024, a state audit found that California spent \$24 billion over five years (2018 - 2023) on more than 30 homelessness programs that were ineffective in reducing the homeless problem and had actually “contributed to the persistent high rates of unsheltered individuals”. Two real estate executives have already been indicted for fraud under this program, including an indictment against one fraudster for misusing \$26 million for a homeless housing project that was never built.

Not to be overlooked is the whopping **\$32 billion** of the pandemic-era unemployment fraud estimates in California. These schemes involved fraudsters using stolen personal information and identities to apply for fraudulent unemployment benefit funds.

This year in California under the Anti-Fraud Task Force headed by Vice President J.D. Vance, “federal agents suspended 447 hospices and 23 home health agencies in the Los Angeles area, alleging they defrauded Medicare of an estimated \$600 million.” This fraud scheme was operated by fraudulently enrolling seniors in hospice and skilled home health programs.

And, Nationwide, according to the DOJ, “the total amount of alleged fraud discovered by federal authorities in the recent National Health Care Fraud Takedown is over \$6.5 billion”. This involved charges against 455 defendants, including 90 doctors and other licensed medical professionals, for their alleged participation in health care fraud.

Can You Believe It?? YES!!!

So how could all of this fraud happen? Where was the oversight by our federal and state agencies to monitor and audit claims for the hundreds of billions of dollars shoveled out the door by the government on a daily basis for healthcare and various welfare benefits?

We would be remiss if we did not report the recent allegations by RFK, Jr., that the Biden administration gutted the HHS office that “guarded \$2.2 trillion a year in taxpayer health care payments, leaving six people to watch the whole thing!” This is actually “Socialism” at its finest.

According to an August 12, 2026 article in *The California Globe*, “RFK Jr. Accuses Former HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra of Gutting Fraud Oversight, Enabling Billions in Theft”. Yes, that Xavier Becerra, who is running for governor in the State of California.

Below are some excerpts from the article:

“When I came in, there’s only six people who are in charge of all program integrity for my department!” Kennedy said. “My predecessor, Xavier Becerra, when he came into my agency, there were only 80 people in program integrity, 80 people. This is for 50 states and five territories. These are the people who are monitoring \$2.2 trillion dollars in payments annually from my agency!”

Kennedy emphasized the scale of the responsibility those few staffers carried. “We do four million transactions a day. There’s only 80 people looking at those. Xavier Becerra came in and transferred 76 of them out.”

The result, according to the secretary, was predictable. “And it was an invitation for the fraudsters to come in and steal everything!”

Kennedy also criticized a “pay and chase” approach he attributed to Becerra’s tenure, under which the agency would pay invoices first—even those flagged as high-risk by algorithms—and attempt recovery later, a process that rarely succeeded. “This was an insane policy,” Kennedy charged.

Under the current administration, Kennedy said HHS has shifted to proactive prevention. “We’ve stopped billions and billions of dollars worth of fraud,” he declared. The agency now deploys artificial intelligence [A.I.], machine counting systems, and other algorithms to flag suspected fraud before payments go out. “We now don’t pay anything that we suspect to be fraudulent.” “He let the people steal the money,” Kennedy said of Becerra.

As you are all aware, Xavier Becerra is the Democrat Party nominee for governor of the State of California running against Republican Steve Hilton. Can you imagine if this man, Xavier Becerra, who allegedly was so inept and incompetent at running a federal financial agency, actually became our governor? The \$135 billion “train to nowhere” would be trivial in comparison to his mismanagement at HHS.

Can You Believe It?? YES!!!

***SAVE CALIFORNIA.
SUPPORT STEVE HILTON FOR GOVERNOR!***

This article was authored by Carol Emmons, opinion editor for Can You Believe It?