

Senate Judiciary Committee
Subcommittee on Crime and Counterterrorism
Hearing on “Your Data, Their Profit: The Consumer Cost of AI Surveillance Pricing”
August 4, 2026
Questions for the Record
Senator Amy Klobuchar

For Hillary Caron, Policy Counsel at United Food & Commercial Workers International Union

1. As the price of food continues to rise, more families find themselves needing to stick to a predictable budget for groceries and everyday household items.
 - How do constantly changing prices affect a family’s ability to set and stick to a budget?

Response:

Price predictability is important for working families. Our national poll found that 66 percent of American voters worry about the cost of groceries for their household.¹

Families plan their budget for the week or the month. They expect prices to be the same, whether they shop before work or after work, during the week or on the weekend. When prices go up, families can afford fewer items, which means less spent at the grocery store and other local businesses.

Our members know their customers and see the impact of surveillance pricing and electronic shelf labels (ESLs) in their stores. Jenny, a member of UFCW Local 1189 in Minnesota, works at Super One Foods in Two Harbors. She observed that “high prices are already taking a toll. Grocery carts aren’t as full, and people aren’t able to eat as healthily as they’d like.”

Traditionally, grocery prices change weekly, but ESLs raise the likelihood of prices changing daily or even multiple times a day. Families depend on predictable pricing, but with ESLs, they will have to look out for daily or even hourly price changes that make it difficult to shop on a budget. Paper price tags and weekly price changes provide the kind of predictability customers expect.

¹ <https://www.ufcw.org/press-releases/new-research-reveals-grocery-industrys-agenda-behind-electronic-shelf-labels-as-poll-finds-americans-want-predatory-technology-banned-in-stores/>