

Testimony in Support of SB 2

Department of Human Services - Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards – Theft of Benefits (Prevent
Electronic Benefits Theft Act of 2023)

Hearing of House Appropriations Committee, March 29, 2023

Testimony of Mya Brown
Baltimore City, Maryland

I, Mya Brown, am writing a letter in support of Senate Bill 2 and ask that you vote in favor of SB 2 clean.

I want to express my concerns about skimming. I feel very confused as to why DHS cannot replenish my SNAP benefits if they were stolen from me. This is especially hard to understand because if my benefits are stolen, I cannot provide food for myself or my child. It's horrible to deny a family food, especially as I am a U.S. veteran trying to find suitable work so I can provide a better living space and safety for my family. We are currently living in a shelter. We are always hearing horror stories about people like me getting their food stamps stolen. I am a human being and a mother first: if I had my benefits stolen and DHS denies me, I would be furious and would want to take legal action.

I think this bill should be passed to replace stolen food stamps. Not everyone has a family to help them in situations like that. I know I don't: I am a single mother living in a shelter, which is scary by itself. So, to think I wouldn't have anyone to help me in a situation like that is horrible. It's stressful just to imagine, much less to experience. I strongly urge that SB 2 be passed clean, without any amendments.

Thank you for listening to me today.