

SB 2  
Department of Human Services - Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards - Fraud  
(Prevent Electronic Benefits Theft Act of 2023)  
Hearing of the Senate Finance Committee  
February 23, 2023

Position: SUPPORT

My name is Andre Simmons, and I am a Maryland resident currently residing at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Baltimore, Maryland 21231. I am writing to support SB 2, Prevent Electronic Benefits Theft Act of 2023, which would require the Department of Human Services to refund SNAP, TCA and TDAP recipients whose benefits were stolen in EBT skimming theft. It would also require DHS to make EBT cards more secure to prevent future theft.

When my benefits were stole due to the theft it created a very stressful situation being on a fixed income so I needed to ask family and friends and also had to find places that fed the homeless in order to eat that month. I was able to get a new card but it seemed as though no one believed me or was willing to accept that even individual who use EBT could be swindled.

EBT important to me because without it I would be stressed and at this time in my life I am working on making amends in a lot of areas, having to go to my family and friends for financial support to eat would only add to the stress. Also as a result of being scammed I am dealing with being afraid it could happen again. All I want at this time is to be taken seriously that EBT is a blessing and a curse because scammers don't car who they hurt and losing the funding provided really hurts.

To receive refund for the money that was stolen can only help and my hope is whoever is in charge of making this happen would put themselves in my place, would you want your money stolen and not replaced? The Department of Human Services and local Department of Social Services should treat and respond to people who have their benefits stolen just like they would want to be treated, just because my situation makes me a little less fortunate I am still a human being and somebodies love one who just needs a helping hand. Just the mere fact you are trying to do something does show someone out there cares about me.

Thank you and I urge the Committee to please **vote YES on SB 2** to make Marylanders who have had their benefits stolen whole again.

Sincerely,  
Andre Simmons

