

Office of the Sheriff

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Richard K. Jones



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Chief Deputy
Anthony E. Dwyer

Butler County, Ohio

House Community and Family Advancement Committee
Proponent Testimony
House Bill 50

Chairman Ginter, Vice Chair Conditt, Ranking Member Boyd, and members of the House Community and Family Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present proponent testimony on House Bill 50.

My name is Jason Rosser currently a Sergeant over welfare fraud investigative unit, twenty-one-year veteran of the Butler County Sheriff's Office. During my employment I have held the position Corrections Office, Road Patrol Deputy, K9 Deputy, Detective since 2002 and currently the rank of Investigative Sergeant. I have participated in numerous units within the Sheriff's office to include honor guard, bike patrol, motorcycle patrol, dive team, swift water rescue, SWAT, and bomb squad. I graduated the Butler County Sheriff Academy in 1995. During my career I have obtained several certifications in investigative skills, interview interrogation techniques and statement analysis. I have investigated hundreds of cases to include burglaries, assaults, homicides and fraud. I have received numerous accommodations and letters of appreciation for my work. Eager to share my knowledge and experience, I regularly teach classes to police academy cadets at the Butler Technology and Career Development School.

I am currently contracted by Butler County Job and Family Services to assist in combating Food Stamp EBT Fraud. I began this newly created position in 2012 and was responsible for the creation and management of this unit. I am also a task force member/team leader comprised of officers in USSS, USDA, OIU and Butler County Sheriff's Office. Under my supervision the unit has grown to include three Sheriff Deputy Investigators. Since its inception the unit has made 402 arrests, dispensed 534 administrative suspensions and issued 334 lifetime bans. This effort has saved the State of Ohio tax payers over \$32,000,000 to date.

Throughout the last five years my sole focus has been combating welfare fraud. During our investigations we have noted a large percentage of illegal use of food stamp or trafficking of food stamp having a direct relation to narcotics, most prevalent to heroin. Working in conjunction with the task force sharing information between our unit and narcotic investigators it has been found on most drug search warrants EBT cards are found.

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I am here to say drugs are a large portion of the problem however only about half are for drugs. Through investigations we have discovered individuals trading their food stamp benefits for vehicles, guns electronics and cash. Individuals have disclosed a variety of ways to purchase what they want utilizing their EBT card. The going rate on the street with EBT food stamp benefits are half the value. Individuals possessing EBT cards see this as their entitlement and feel they can use it how they want. Unfortunately individuals selling their benefits are also selling their children's benefits allowing their children to starve.

The current system of the EBT card with only a name allows individuals an outlet to sell their food stamp benefits with low risk of being detected. Through House Bill 50 purchasing and selling of EBT will be deterred with a photo attached to all EBT cards. Individuals will be less likely to purchase and use a card knowing photos are attached.

This committee has an opportunity to not only assist in combating the drug epidemic but to assist thousands of children to be feed and well nourished by forcing the proper usage of these cards passing House Bill 50.

I want to thank Chairman Ginter and the entire committee for allowing me the opportunity to advocate on behalf of this much needed House Bill 50. I would be happy to assist or answer any questions anyone else may have.

Jason D. Rosser, Sergeant

Butler County Sheriff's Office