

October 22, 2019

Dear Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee,

My name is Jim Mullen and I am the President and CEO of the United Way of Summit County. I write to you today to express my concern and opposition to Senate Bill 165 which proposes additional requirements, including photo identification, for SNAP electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards. While the United Way of Summit County believes in preserving the integrity of the SNAP program and recognizes that fraud and abuse should not be tolerated, we want to ensure that those in need do not have additional barriers to getting the food they need for themselves and their families.

We've seen similar legislative efforts in other states, but due to concerns over cost, implementation and effectiveness, such proposed requirements have never been passed into law.

The United Way of Summit County envisions a community where all individuals and families achieve their human potential through education, financial stability and healthy lives. SNAP is a vital, short-term lifeline that keeps food on the table for the 76,205 residents of Summit County who are forced to make tough decisions between food, gas, and rent on fixed budgets. We envision a future where residents have the tools to be financially empowered and where all kids have resources to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Chairman Schuring, Vice-Chair Rulli, Ranking Member O'Brien and members of the Senate General Government and Agency Review Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. We appreciate your consideration of the impact this bill would have on members of our community. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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