



**Before the House Agriculture Committee
House Bill 174 – No Hungry Families Act
Representatives Tristan Rader and Desiree Tims
April 2, 2025**

Chairman Creech, Vice Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Agriculture Committee—thank you for the opportunity to offer sponsor testimony on House Bill 174, the *No Hungry Families Act*. I’m honored to bring this legislation forward with my joint sponsor, Representative Desiree Tims.

You just heard testimony on House Bill 163, our bill to proactively stop SNAP fraud at the source by upgrading EBT card security. HB 174 is the other half of that mission. If HB 163 is the firewall, HB 174 is the fire extinguisher. It ensures that the damage done by scammers and thieves doesn’t leave Ohio families out in the cold—or more to the point, out of food.

Here’s the problem we’re addressing: From June 2023 to February of this year, over **\$17 million in SNAP benefits were stolen** in Ohio. That’s money that should have been feeding children, seniors, and working families. That’s groceries left unbought, dinners skipped, and food banks stretched past the breaking point.

And since the federal reimbursement program expired in December 2024, there is now **no avenue** for those families to recover what they’ve lost. HB 174 changes that.

This bill would appropriate \$17 million—matching the documented thefts during the federal program’s coverage window—to allow for the **reimbursement of SNAP benefits stolen on or after December 21, 2024**. It builds on the federal framework and ensures counties can swiftly and fairly return stolen benefits to those who need them most.

Under HB 174:

- Households can apply for reimbursement if their benefits were stolen through skimming, cloning, phishing, or similar electronic fraud.
- County Job and Family Services offices will review applications using a clear standard—requiring two or more indicators of likely fraud (such as suspicious online orders or transactions from known scam retailers).
- Replacement benefits will be limited to **the lesser of the amount stolen or two months’ worth of a household’s allotment**, with no more than two replacements per fiscal year.
- New EBT cards will be issued in every approved case, further reducing future risk.

The bill ensures strong oversight, a clear appeals process, and a deadline-driven structure so these funds get to people quickly.

Let's be clear: This is not a blank check. It's a narrowly tailored, evidence-based response to criminal activity that disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable neighbors. And just like a broken water main, when there's a leak in the system, you fix the pipe and then you help clean up the damage. HB 163 fixes the pipe. HB 174 cleans up the damage.

Food insecurity is not a partisan issue—it's a human one. And especially in our agriculture committee, we know that food doesn't just represent nutrition—it represents dignity, security, and survival.

This is our chance to stand with families who did everything right but still had their benefits stolen. We owe them justice. And in a state as resourceful and compassionate as Ohio, **no family should go hungry because someone hacked their SNAP card.**

Chair Creech, Vice Chair Newman, Ranking Member Miller, and members of the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity today to provide sponsor testimony. We would be happy to answer any questions at this time.