TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SR 29

Presented to
The Ohio Senate Workforce Development Committee

4/1/2025

Beau Euton, *on behalf of*
FGA Action

Thank you, Chair Koehler, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee. Senate Resolution 29 highlights a critical need to protect and restore Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and implement stronger anti-fraud measures to safeguard the integrity of these essential programs.

The original intent of welfare programs like SNAP was to serve as a lifeline for individuals and families facing food insecurity. These programs are designed to ensure that no one in our communities goes hungry, providing temporary assistance to those in need. However, the unfortunate rise in fraud, particularly through methods like card skimming, has severely undermined the effectiveness of this support.

In recent years, fraudulent activities have resulted in millions of dollars in stolen SNAP benefits. In Ohio alone, over $12.6 million in benefits were fraudulently taken and subsequently replaced using federal funds. While the temporary replacement of stolen benefits has provided some relief, the expiration of those measures at the end of 2024 leaves vulnerable families at risk once again.

By urging Congress to restore stolen SNAP benefits and strengthen anti-fraud efforts, this resolution seeks to uphold the foundational principles of our welfare programs. Implementing measures such as transitioning to security chip cards can significantly reduce fraud, ensuring that aid reaches those who need it most.

Furthermore, maintaining a system that swiftly restores stolen benefits reflects our commitment to protecting Ohio's most vulnerable citizens. No family should suffer further hardship because of criminal activity beyond their control.

I strongly encourage your support for Senate Resolution 29 to ensure the continuation of these vital protections and reinforce the original purpose of SNAP—to provide nourishment and stability to those in need.

Thank you, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.