



OHIO JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION

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Ohio Senate Workforce Development Committee

SR 29 – Proponent Testimony

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Chairman Koehler, Vice-Chair Reynolds, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Resolution 29, sponsored by Senator Tim Schaffer, on behalf of the Ohio JFS Directors' Association, the association representing county Job and Family Service departments in 88 counties.

County department of job and family services (CDJFS) agencies blend the administration of multiple health, human service, and workforce programs. One in four Ohioans receive assistance from a local office at any point in time. Services operated through local agencies include determining eligibility for means-tested programs including cash assistance, food assistance, childcare, and Medicaid (including long-term care, children's health insurance and aged, blind and disabled). Counties also operate employment and training programs including work requirements for cash assistance, SNAP employment and training, and other workforce programs, adoption, adult protective services, child protective services, foster care, childcare licensing inspections, refugee services, and child support programs.

County JFS workers have been on the front lines seeing the impact of SNAP EBT theft on Ohioans. Over the last two years, counties have determined eligibility on thousands of applications for replacement benefits. And as Senator Schaffer noted in his testimony last week, over \$15 million in benefits were stolen from over 30,000 Ohioans on SNAP between October 2022 through December 2024.

SNAP beneficiaries around the country, including in Ohio, continue to be targeted and their benefits stolen. Recently, a county director shared the experience of a client who had their card locked as advised by ODJFS to protect their benefits. They unlocked their card while shopping at the store, and by the time they got to the register, their benefits had been skimmed.

Senate Resolution 29 would call on Congress to provide a short-term and long-term approach. In the short-term, it calls for much-needed financial relief to victims of SNAP EBT

theft, continuing to protect victims including veterans, families, low-income workers, children, the elderly and the disabled. And in the long-term, it also calls for the modernization of SNAP benefit issuance to help curb the occurrence of such theft.

We thank Senator Schaffer for bringing attention to this critical issue. We fully support SR 29. I would also like to recognize the valuable leadership of ODJFS Director Matt Damschroder and his team, including the Bureau of Program Integrity, in the face of this crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.