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Tomorrow, LD257, An Act To Require Electronic Benefits Transfer Cards To Be Printed with the Beneficiary's Photograph will be heard at 9:00 in the Committee of Health and Human Services.

<https://legislature.maine.gov/committee/#Committees/HHS>

I know we all hate welfare fraud, but the photo EBT card approach has been tried before and has failed before. Shockingly, Mitt Romney, when Governor of Massachusetts, put an end to Massachusetts' photo EBT card program due to excessive cost and poor results in stopping fraud. The costs associated with implementing this program are enough to vote against this bill. Other real concerns are: 1) privacy 2) multiple family members are in fact eligible to access the food stamp funds, but may be prevented due to the photo id 3) impoverished folks being treated separately from those not impoverished (non food stamp users are not "carded" when buying food), 4) may be a violation of federal law and 5) publicly identifying an incapacitated adult by placing their guardian's photo on their EBT card (HIPPA violation).