

March 23rd, 2021

Good afternoon Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

My name is Summer Becker, and I have lived and worked in the Southern Maine area for over 23 years. I am a social worker in Portland. I have utilized EBT benefits on an individual level as well as assisted clients in accessing EBT benefits for their own households. This past year has been trying for everyone as we adapt to a new way of living.

Through this pandemic, I have grocery shopped for my elderly and disabled grandparents that were unable to venture out during the height of the pandemic. Had photo ID's been required on EBT cards, I never would have been able to grocery shop for my grandparents. Protecting their health and safety during this pandemic has been my number one priority, however LD 287 would hinder my ability to provide and care for them. The state of Maine should not be creating barriers during a time of emergency but instead should be seeking ways to minimize already existing challenges. I urge you to vote to oppose this bill as it further ostracizes folks accessing entitlement programs.

Thank you for your time.