

# Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No:** SB-480 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

**Title:** AN ACT TARGETING FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE AND CORRUPTION.

**Vote Date:** 3/19/2026

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/17/2026

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Human Services Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The bill mainly seeks to limit fraud with respect to the SNAP program by examining EBT cards and upgrading their chip technology. Many pieces of testimony make clear that there is no reliable statewide system for reacquiring lost resources, which has motivated proponents of the legislation to argue that the bill would prevent future instances of theft and safeguard benefits.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

### **Connecticut Department of Social Services, Andrea Barton Reeves, Commissioner:**

Cannot support the bill, considering Section 1 projects a \$4 million increase in costs within the first year. DSS shares that they replace thousands of EBT cards per month and can only support provisions included in the Governor's budget.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

### **Connecticut Senate Democrats, Martha Marx, State Senator:**

Refers to SNAP and Medicaid as "vital safety-net services" and believes combatting fraud protects the integrity of these very programs, adding that in a recent discussion, one constituent had no federal safety measures to turn to that would resolve, refund, or alleviate their financial burden.

### **Connecticut Legal Services, Matthew Dillon, Attorney:**

Mentions how thieves have been stealing SNAP, TFA, and SAGA benefits through card-skimming devices for years. Mr. Dillon shares that requiring to have chip technology included on EBT cards is a vital tool, considering viable recourses in the past have, at best, directed clients to replacement programs.

**MBraces, Orthodontist, Pradipta Mazumder:** Supports, claiming increased costs and inflation are contributing to financial hardships.

**Jerome Cincotta:** Supports and believes there are areas where the state government can improve oversight.

**Anonymous 19:**

Supports the bill and initiatives that reduce fraud in-state.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**Maureen Ciardello:** urges the Committee to vote no

**Reported by: Zachary Robinson**

**Date: March 27, 2026**