

Comment Report

HSB 502

A bill for an act relating to verification and authentication systems for public assistance programs.

Subcommittee Members: Bergan-CH, Bennett, Bradley

Date: 01/18/2022

Time: 12:00 PM

Location: RM 19

Name: Jane Broughton

Comment: Let's not make it harder to feed hungry children.

Name: Tom Mohan

Comment: HSB appears to be a bad bill that only seems to punish poor people. It seems unneeded and unnecessary. It will only profit a 3rd party vendor at the expense of Iowan's benefits that are due them. During these difficult pandemic days stop punishing those hungry and needing help.

Name: Brianavoi Carter

Comment: People are already struggling to avoid hunger in Des Moines. One of the churches I pastored has had a free supper program for the last 15 years. This past year the number of families coming has increased by 25%. Children are going hungry. In my 40 years experience I found very few families trying to cheat the system. Let's focus on our (government's) job of providing nutritious meals to families in need, not chasing imaginary cheaters.

Name: Cherie Miner

Comment: Is your goal to feed children and families, or discourage them from applying by throwing up more hurdles? And how much will it cost to administer this authentication and verification? Will this entail another no-bid contract with some private vendor?