

Cracking Down on Scammers Who Target Senior & Disabled Beneficiaries

By Senator Lisa Boscola

This week, the Shapiro Administration issued an important warning about scam phone calls targeting recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These scams attempt to steal personal information and drain Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) accounts. These benefits are intended to help eligible families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities afford food.

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) will never call or text you asking for your EBT card number, PIN, or any personal information. If you receive a suspicious call, do not respond. Instead, report it immediately to the DHS fraud tip line at 1-844-DHS-TIPS.

These scams are reprehensible. That is why I have introduced legislation, Senate Bill 362, to increase penalties for criminals who use skimming devices or counterfeit technology to steal SNAP benefits.

More than 2 million Pennsylvanians rely on SNAP to help meet their basic needs.

This includes hundreds of thousands of children, older adults, and individuals with disabilities.

Last year alone, DHS has received claims of over \$450,000 in stolen SNAP benefits as a result of skimming schemes.

This theft harms both vulnerable Pennsylvanians and the taxpayers who fund these programs.

My legislation, SB362, creates a specific criminal offense to target SNAP skimming and imposes enhanced penalties, and banning convicted offenders from receiving benefits themselves in the future.

SNAP benefits are intended to support those in need, not to be stolen by fraudsters. Let us take strong action to stop this abuse and protect the people and resources of our Commonwealth.

I encourage all benefit recipients to take advantage of DHS tools to protect themselves:

Lock your EBT card when not in use by using the ConnectEBT app or website.

Change your PIN regularly.

Monitor your transactions.

Report any suspicious communications to 1-844-DHS-TIPS.

For more information, visit www.dhs.pa.gov/scams.



New Consumer Protection Tools to Help Pennsylvanians Report Scams and Predatory Practices

By Senator Lisa Boscola

It is now easier than ever for Pennsylvanians to report possible scams, resolve issues, and get help with a wide range of financial, insurance, and consumer concerns.

As the Minority Chair for the Senate Consumer Protection & Professional Licensure Committee, I am proud to say that Pennsylvania has some of the strongest consumer protection laws in the country, and whether you're dealing with a denied health insurance claim or problems with a bank or mortgage lender or have a dispute involving a student loan or grant, our consumers are looked after.

Help is now just a call or click away. Pennsylvanians are encouraged to call 1-866-PACOMPLAINT, visit pa.gov/consumer, or email consumer@pa.gov to report financial, insurance, and consumer concerns.




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