



June 15, 2023

The Honorable Shontel Brown (D-OH-11)
U.S. House of Representatives
449 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Brown:

On behalf of FMI – The Food Industry Association, I offer our strong support of the “Ensuring Fee-Free Benefit Transactions (EBT) Act” to protect Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants’ access to grocery retailers around the country. We appreciate your leadership on this important issue.

The “EBT Act” permanently prohibits processing or other related fees from being imposed on retailers participating in SNAP for electronic benefit transfer (EBT) transactions. The bill also protects retailers from the financial burden of a migration to EBT chip cards. Processing and related service fees outside of our control have never been imposed on SNAP participating retailers. The “EBT Act” ensures that these fees will be permanently prohibited in the program and costs associated with a migration to EBT chip cards are not borne by grocers.

Retailers continue to invest significant resources to participate in SNAP, including bearing the cost of equipment updates, software, and training for store associates. The imposition of processing or other related fees and costs outside of our control would be an unfair burden on retailers. Such fees and costs could result in higher costs on consumers or some stores feeling that they are unable to participate in the program, hurting SNAP participants and their communities.

Thank you again for introducing the “EBT Act” and protecting access to SNAP. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues in a bipartisan manner to enact the “EBT Act” in Farm Bill reauthorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jennifer Hatcher'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jennifer Hatcher
Chief Public Policy Officer and Senior Vice President, Government & Public Affairs

