

TIM KRIEGER, MEMBER
57TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:
B-14 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
PO BOX 202057
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2057
PHONE: (717) 260-6146
FAX: (717) 260-6501

tkrieger@pahousegop.com
www.rep krieger.com



House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg
MEMORANDUM

DISTRICT OFFICES:
101 EHALT STREET
SUITE 105
GREENSBURG, PA 15601
PHONE: (724) 834-6400
FAX: (724) 834-6799

17 SOUTH SIXTH STREET
YOUNGWOOD, PA 15697

COMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
AND ENERGY
JUDICIARY
LIQUOR CONTROL
STATE GOVERNMENT

DATE: October 24, 2011

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Tim Krieger *TK*
57th Legislative District

SUBJECT: Request Cosponsorship - Establishing the Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Management Program within the Department of Public Welfare

I will shortly introduce legislation to establish the Electronic Benefits Transfer Card Management Program within the Department of Public Welfare.

In order to ensure the efficient delivery of public assistance through the proper management of electronic benefit transfer cards (EBT), the department will be required to develop electronic controls, oversight mechanisms, and follow-up procedures to detect and track the following:

1. Suspicious EBT card transactions that might indicate fraudulent use;
2. the use of EBT cards outside the Commonwealth that might indicate the receipt of benefits by a nonresident;
3. the possible use of EBT cards to acquire goods and services that do not comply with the purposes of public assistance.

The department oversees an extensive payment delivery system with upwards of 750,000 Pennsylvanians using EBT cards at any point in time. Auditor General Jack Wagner's September 2011 special report on *Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards and the Delivery of Public Assistance Benefits* only confirmed what many of my constituents have been telling me for years: the EBT card system is unmonitored and out of control.

It is time for the General Assembly to make it clear that public assistance is meant to be a temporary bridge from poverty to self-sufficiency, not a way of life. As part of that message, the EBT card system must be strengthened through more responsible management and oversight.

If you would like to cosponsor this legislation, please contact my secretary, Nancy Shenk at nshenk@pahousegop.com or via telephone at 727-260-6146. Thank you.