

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Erosion of Health Care Access, Affordability Would Harm All Ohioans

Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:

“Today, 50 members of the U.S. Senate voted to begin debate on how to proceed with health care legislation. Although it remains unclear at this time which approach or proposed bill the Senate will consider, all five GOP health bills have the same core flaws, including causing more than 20 million people to lose coverage, gutting Medicaid coverage for low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities, essentially ending protections for people with pre-existing conditions and raising the cost of coverage for millions of Americans.

“In 2015, just 57 percent of employers nationally offered health benefits to their employees. Millions of workers go to jobs every day in sectors like retail, food service, and construction but don’t receive employer-provided coverage. They rely on Medicaid coverage or tax credits through the federal Marketplace for their health insurance. And that’s a good thing for everyone – because access to preventative and primary care helps to keep spending down and improve health outcomes over time.

“All Ohioans, including the millions who receive coverage through employers, depend on a stable, balanced health insurance market – the one built by the Affordable Care Act that protects individuals when illness strikes and prevents middle-income families from falling into medical bankruptcy. None of us should want to return to a time when one diagnosis or job loss could throw a family into poverty.

“As debate continues, we urge Senator Rob Portman and Senator Sherrod Brown to stand firm in their commitment to protect all Ohioans, not just the privileged few.”

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Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, representing the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, is available for interviews on how this budget proposal would impact vulnerable Ohioans. To arrange an interview, please reach out to her at the contact information below.

About the Ohio Association of Foodbanks

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks is Ohio’s largest charitable response to hunger, representing Ohio’s 12 Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2016, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 208 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association also serves as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank and operates the state’s largest navigator program for the Affordable Care Act. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

Contact: Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at 614-221-4336 ext. 222 or 614-271-4803 (cell) or lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org