

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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Budget bill, tax cuts threaten longstanding, proven programs that serve tens of millions

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

“With the passage yesterday of their budget bill, Senator Rob Portman joined his GOP colleagues to set in motion a process for tax ‘reform’ that would give 80 percent of its tax cuts to the wealthiest 1 percent of households and increase the deficit by \$1.5 trillion.

“What does all of that mean for the 20 million children in our country that count on basic food aid from SNAP (food stamps)? Or the 6 million low-income seniors who rely on Medicaid for long-term care and home- and community-based services? What about families caring for children with disabilities who face severe hardships and struggle to meet basic needs?

“We simply cannot dramatically decrease revenues, dramatically increase our deficit and still maintain basic income supports for millions of our most vulnerable citizens. The math doesn’t add up. President Trump and House leaders have already passed budget plans that would slash SNAP benefits by 40 percent over ten years, cut SSI for low-income families with children with disabilities who already struggle to get by, cut Medicaid by up to half and the list goes on. They have forecasted what tax ‘reform’ would mean for the tens of millions of people served by organizations like ours across the country: pain.

“Our country already has policies that work. Thanks to slow but steady recovery over the past several years, poverty rates are finally edging downward, median household incomes are finally climbing upward and Americans are no longer living under the threat of crippling medical debt and bankruptcy from lifetime caps or preexisting conditions.

“Ohio’s congressional delegation has a responsibility to the hardworking families that they represent. Protect basic lifelines like SNAP, tax credits like the EITC and Child Tax Credit for low-income families and Medicaid. Pay for tax cuts by closing loopholes and making responsible changes, not by adding to deficits or by forcing immediate or future cuts to the programs that have helped millions of Americans throughout the recovery.

“Last year, we gave basic groceries – usually three to five days’ worth – to seniors nearly 1.7 million times. Just picture that. 1.7 million times, a senior in Ohio was forced to come to a food pantry because they couldn’t afford enough food on their own. How will tax cuts for the wealthy help them? Who should our programs and policies really be serving?”

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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 2017, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 216 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association has also served as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank since 2006. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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