

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

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Senate tax bill betrays promises to Ohio households

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

“Early Saturday morning, the Senate completed its rushed tax ‘reform’ process, coming up with just enough votes to pass a bill that will spell short- and long-term harm for low- and middle-income Ohio families. Ohio Senator Rob Portman, a professed budget deficit watchdog, enthusiastically supported a bill under the false pretenses of projected economic growth. Instead, the bill will balloon the deficit in order to cut taxes for the wealthy, and lead to calls to cut basic lifelines like SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security.

“We have longstanding social contracts in our country. These contracts are rooted in our shared commitment to promote a country where all people can at least survive, if not thrive. Persist, if not prosper. They are also informed by smart policymaking that understands the old adage, ‘an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.’ In Ohio, the average SNAP recipient – likely a child, disabled adult or senior – receives \$123 to help them buy groceries. The calls for cuts to programs like these are already being made, even as the tax legislation moves toward conference committee.

“If Congress completes this process and passes tax legislation that deeply cuts revenue, the calls for cuts to programs that serve tens of millions of low- and moderate-income Americans will follow. It will certainly be a happy holiday season for the corporations and wealthy individuals who will benefit from permanent tax cuts. But the fallout for the 2 million Ohioans we serve will be like a lump of coal in their stockings.”

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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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