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**Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on Federal SNAP Attacks
*Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director of the
Ohio Association of Foodbanks***

“The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) remains under attack by state and federal policymakers. The Trump administration and the Agriculture Department today issued its final rule to stiffen work requirements for 700,000 Americans who turn to SNAP to help them purchase nutritious food for themselves and their families.

“Barring any legal action, the rule will take effect in April 2020, and it will be devastating to Ohioans who rely on their SNAP benefits to survive. It will increase food insecurity and financial hardship, while harming local economies, grocers and retailers, agricultural producers, and communities.

“The Trump administration has continued to decimate SNAP through a series of misguided revisions and new rules that only hurt those who need help affording food most – children, seniors, veterans, adults with disabilities and low-income working families. Another recently proposed rule change that would modify the household utility calculation for SNAP benefits is projected to negatively affect 40% of the 1.3 million Ohioans who rely on SNAP – cuts that cannot be made up by our foodbank network.

“SNAP has several key features that make it effective in reducing food insecurity and improving health outcomes. Congress protected and preserved SNAP in the Farm Bill it passed on a widely bipartisan basis one year ago. Today’s rule and others ignore the will of Congress to prevent food insecurity through our nation’s first line of defense against hunger.

“We can’t meet the demand for emergency food assistance now and approval of these rule changes will be further detrimental to thousands of Ohioans. This is a heartless approach that will only increase the food insecurity among populations that are suffering from a lack of services, opportunities and access to basic human needs.”

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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 3,600 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2019, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute nearly 230 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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