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By Cutting SNAP, President Trump's Budget Would Not Only Harm Struggling Seniors and Families, but Also Weaken Local Economies and Lead to Poorer Health Outcomes

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

“The President’s budget proposes drastic cuts to one of the most effective poverty-reduction programs in the country. SNAP, also known as food stamps, helps struggling families and workers put healthy food on their tables. By making deep cuts and changes to SNAP, including cutting \$190 billion from the program as proposed in the budget released today, the President would be taking food off of the tables of everyday families.

“In Ohio, more than 84 percent of all SNAP participants are children, seniors or people living with disabilities. What happens to these households, who already live on the brink, when they lose 25 percent of their SNAP benefits?

“Clearly, these cuts would put our most vulnerable at risk. And they would also lead to weaker local economies and poorer health outcomes. For the 200,000 seniors in Ohio that rely on SNAP, how long will they be able to age in place or avoid costly health crises without access to basic nutritious foods? For the grocers and retailers in Ohio, especially those in small, rural markets, how will they be able to keep their doors open for all of their customers when they lose over \$600 million in annual revenue from SNAP benefits?

“Our statewide hunger relief network does everything we can, with the help of generous donors and volunteers, to help put food on the table. But we can’t make up for these losses – a 25 percent cut to Ohio’s SNAP benefits represents more than two times as much as all of the food our charitable network distributes in a year.

“News reports indicate that the House of Representatives is considering similar cuts to SNAP in its budget resolution, expected next month. Members of Congress should take note: Community members across Ohio won’t stand for this shameful attack on our loved ones and neighbors.”

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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 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.

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