

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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House Farm Bill Would Increase Food Insecurity, Unlike Bipartisan Senate Bill Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:

"The House farm bill passed today is a betrayal of the longstanding, bipartisan commitment our country has made for decades to ensure all Americans have access to adequate nutrition.

"Along with the nearly 1.4 million Ohioans who use SNAP to put basic groceries on the table – including children, seniors, working families and people living with disabilities – we turn to the Senate to do better. We urge Senator Portman to support the Senate farm bill, passed on a wide bipartisan basis by the Senate Agriculture Committee on which Senator Brown serves. We urge the Senate to reject any harmful amendments to the bill that would take food assistance away from vulnerable people.

"We also urge the Republican members of Ohio's congressional delegation to recognize the people in our state who would be hurt by the House farm bill. The House and Senate will need to agree on one version of a bill – which gives each representative who voted for the harmful House version another chance to stand up for hungry Ohioans. The Senate bill is the right approach: it protects basic food assistance and renews our shared vow to prevent our neighbors and friends from going hungry."

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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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