



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on Ohio House Am. Sub. H.B. 96
Media Statement from Joree Novotny, executive director, Ohio Association of Foodbanks

“We are grateful to Chairman Stewart, Ranking Member Sweeney, and the members of the House Finance Committee for continuing to prioritize the essential work of Ohio’s foodbanks in Am. Sub. H.B. 96. Their support of \$24.55 million per year in state-funded food purchase programs helps ensure that nearly 2,000 food pantries and 1,600 soup kitchens, shelters, and supplemental feeding sites can provide nutritious, center-of-the-plate foods to families in every corner of our state.

“Foodbanks and the people we serve are feeling the effects of inflation. Since 2020, food prices have surged by nearly 24%, meaning the same level of funding buys significantly less, both in consumers’ grocery carts and in our own purchasing power as a statewide hunger relief network. That’s why we’re respectfully asking for an additional \$4.93 million per year to help offset these rising costs, so we can continue to source healthy, nutrient-dense foods to nourish families and seniors and support Ohio agriculture.

“We look forward to working with members of the Ohio Senate to adjust this investment to account for some of the inflationary pressure we are attempting to absorb. With modest additional support, Ohio’s foodbanks will continue to stretch every dollar to maintain access to healthy foods when seniors and working families are forced to turn to us for help.”

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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, hot meals, and other hunger relief programs. In SFY 2024, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 292 million pounds of food and grocery items. Visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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