



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 11, 2025

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

“We are grateful to Chairman Cirino, Vice Chairman Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, and leadership and members of the Ohio Senate for including continued support for Ohio’s hunger relief network in its budget. This \$24.55 million investment is a lifeline for the 3,600 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters serving families in every corner of our state.

“At a time when food prices remain high, this funding will help keep shelves stocked with healthy, Ohio-grown and Ohio-produced foods. It will help ensure that children, older adults, veterans, and working families don’t have to worry about where their next meal will come from. Every dollar invested in our statewide food purchasing programs not only fights hunger, but creates jobs, strengthens local supply chains, and [boosts local economies](#).

“We are also thankful that the Senate removed harmful policy changes, like change reporting, that would have disrupted SNAP access and increased red tape. Protecting these programs means protecting people, communities, and the systems that keep them resilient in hard times.

“Ohio’s foodbanks remain ready to stretch every public dollar and continue delivering for our neighbors. We look forward to support for these priorities in conference committee and to building on this foundation with the Ohio General Assembly and the DeWine-Tressel Administration for an even stronger, more food-secure Ohio.”

###

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.

Contact: Joree Novotny, Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks
614-273-5818 (cell) – or – jnovotny@ohiofoodbanks.org