

June 16, 2025

The Honorable Jon Husted
United States Senate
SR-304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Husted:

We are writing to you today as representatives of Ohio's health care providers, retailers and agribusinesses, social service providers, faith-based leaders, and economic mobility advocates to **raise our serious concerns about the harmful implications the federal budget bill under consideration in the U.S. Senate – particularly the provisions related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – would have for the State of Ohio's ability to balance its budget and deliver core services.**

SNAP directly infuses more than \$3 billion each year in *federally-funded benefits* that are spent by seniors, disabled Ohioans, and working families at *nearly 10,000 local grocery stores, retailers, and farmers markets*. Every dollar generates \$1.74 in economic activity¹. Everyone who receives SNAP in Ohio is a senior, a child, a parent, disabled, working, participating in a work training program, and/or recently unemployed within the last three months.

If the budget reconciliation text is adopted, it would require states to pay at least 5 percent and up to 25 percent of the cost of SNAP benefits, based on a variable annual "payment error rate." Although Ohio's payment error rate is below the national average, the State would be required to pay 15 percent of SNAP benefits based on its current error rate. **This would cost Ohio at least \$475 million in General Revenue Funds in FY26.** This percentage will change every year, making it impossible for state planning through a biennium budget process. This price tag would be even higher in an economic recession when the unemployment rate goes up and state tax receipts go down. **Ohio's share of this cost shift to states would inevitably increase** because the bill also proceeds, for the first time, to include even de minimis improper payments (even as low as one dollar) in the error rate. These error rates are not measurements of fraud, and they include both overpayments and underpayments. They include procedural and clerical errors that may not otherwise affect eligibility and do not necessarily lead to additional federal outlays. Under current law, states are already assessed penalties for unacceptably high error rates and must work with the USDA – FNS to develop corrective action plans.

Additionally, the bill would also **shift more of the administrative costs for operating the program to states**. Ohio invested about \$140 million at the state and county levels in FY23 in SNAP administrative costs, and received dollar for dollar matching funds from the federal government. Under the reconciliation text, **Ohio would have to invest an additional \$70 million or more per**

¹ Cahill, Rachel, The Center for Community Solutions, *Recession-resilient economy*, April 2025;
<https://www.communitysolutions.com/resources/want-a-recession-resilient-economy-protect-snap>.

year in administrative costs – and failing to do so would increase error rates, increasing the State’s responsibility for its share of the cost of benefits.

Under this proposal, the State of Ohio would have to either **raise taxes** to increase revenue, significantly **reduce investments** in other critical services, or **risk losing billions of dollars in economic activity** that supports Ohio retailers, agribusinesses, and vulnerable citizens. It would cost the State of Ohio *at least* \$550 million in its first year of implementation, and very likely more than that in each subsequent year.

We urge you to reject this unsustainable and unrealistic cost-shift as the Senate considers work on its budget reconciliation bill. SNAP is a critical nutrition program that supports access to basic groceries for vulnerable Americans. In Ohio, the benefit averages less than \$6 per person, per day – a modest investment in the food security and well-being of low-income seniors and families that also supports food supply chain jobs and generates economic activity. Thank you for rejecting the harmful SNAP proposals in the budget reconciliation package.

Respectfully,

3C Food Pantry
A Step in the Right Direction
ACCESS, Inc
Advocacy, Choices & Empowerment (ACE), Inc.
Advocates for Basic Legal Equality
Advocates for Ohio's Future
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
Area Agency on Aging 3
Area Agency on Aging District 7
Area Agency on Aging Region 9, Inc.
Ashtabula Towers
Athens Catholic Community Food Pantry
Attica Community Food Pantry
Audrey's Outreach
Back to Pentecost Ministries
Bellville Neighborhood Outreach Center
Benevolent Love Ministries
Blessing Basket Pantry
Body of Christ Assembly
Bread for the World
Broad Street Presbyterian Church
Buckeye Hills Regional Council
Bucyrus Backpack Program LLC
Calvary CME Church
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Canal Lewisville UM Church
Care and Share Inc. Erie County
Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Catholic Charities/Fatima Family Center
Celebration Lutheran Church (Chardon)
CelebrateOne
Children's Hunger Alliance
Christ Presbyterian Church Food Pantry
Church of God and Saints of Christ
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland Kosher Food Pantry
Columbus Early Learning Centers
Community Action Committee of Pike County
Community Action Council of Portage County
Community Campus Coalition
Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley
Community Free Meal
Community of Faith Assembly
Concord Counseling Services
Crime Victim Services
Delta Alpha Lambda Foundation Food Pantry
Direction Home of Eastern Ohio
DLP Marketing Service
Donna Smallwood Activities Center
Dublin Area Progressives
East Cleveland School District
Economic Mobility Alliance Ohio
ETSS (Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services)
Euclid Hunger Task Force
FairShare CSA Coalition
Families Flourish
Fellowship Church Food Pantry
First United Methodist Church
Freestore Foodbank
Front Steps Services
FrontLine Service
Glass Rooster Cannery
Glenmont Food Pantry
Godman Guild Association
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Grace Church Food Pantry
Grace Community Dinner
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Groundwork Ohio
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HEART Food Pantry, Inc.
Heartland Orchard

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Help Ministry Greater Faith Missionary Baptist Church
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Hocking Athens Perry Community Action
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JustChoice
Karpos Ministry
KOC Member Services
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Little Miami Food Service
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Loudonville Mobile Pantry/First Church of the Brethren
Love in Action Food Pantry
Lucas County Children Services
Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry
Lutheran Social Services
Madison Food Center
Maple Drive Farms
Matthew 25 Outreach Center
McGregor Metal
Mckinley Hall
Mid-Ohio Food Collective
Middleburg Heights Food Pantry
Millennia Housing LTD
Milo's WWG
Morelands Group
Motherful
Mt. Sinai Ministries
Mt. Zion Fellowship Church
National Association of Social Workers - Ohio Chapter

Navigate Consulting, LLC
Neighborhood Housing Partnership
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New Birth Mission Food Pantry
New Directions Career Center
New Life Gospel Center of Cleveland
New Zion Gospel Church
Newbury United Community Church
Nordonia Schools Foundation Knights Caring for Knights Program
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The Blessing Basket/Willard Church of God
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The LIGHT Neighborhood Pantry at Elliston
The Maple Heights Food Pantry
The Oaks Food Pantry
The P.E.E.R. Center
The Salvation Army Kroc Center
The Steak Club Foundation

Thea Bowman Center
Three Creeks Produce
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice
Toledo Northwestern Ohio Food Bank
Towards Employment
Tri C West Pantry
UFCW Local 75
UFCW Local 1059
UHCAN Ohio
United Campus Ministry
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
United Way of Greater Cleveland
United Way of Greater Lorain County
United Way of Summit & Medina
Urbana Youth Center of Grandworks Foundation
Vineyard Columbus
Virtual Works
Walk The Talk Outreach Ministries
Welcome Home Collaborative
WellLink Health Alliance
West Ohio Food Bank
West Salem Outreach and Food Pantry
Whole Again
Women's Fund of Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Worthington Resource Pantry
Yellowbird Foodshed
Youth Over Us, Inc.
YWCA Columbus

June 16, 2025

The Honorable Bernie Moreno
United States Senate
SR-284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Moreno:

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