



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

“We are grateful to Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Gov. Tressel, and the Ohio General Assembly for their continued commitment to Ohio’s hunger relief network in the biennial state budget. Their \$24.55 million per year investment in our state food purchase programs is a lifeline for the 3,600 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters serving families in every corner of our state. It will help keep shelves filled with Ohio-grown, Ohio-produced foods to nourish our neighbors while supporting local farmers, jobs, and communities.

“At a time when need remains high and resources are stretched thin, this partnership makes a real difference in the lives of children, older adults, veterans, and working families across Ohio. Access to food helps Ohio households avoid harmful tradeoffs and focus on learning at school, earning at work, and aging in place safely.

“More work to prevent hunger and hardship remains on the horizon. Other sources of food for food pantry shelves are also in decline. Federal reconciliation, if passed, could cut food assistance and health care coverage for countless Ohio families and shift \$400 million in food assistance costs each year to the State of Ohio. Ohio’s charitable hunger relief network is already strained and we will not be able to fill the gaps this will create in access to food assistance on our own.

“We are thankful for this continued partnership and remain committed to working alongside the DeWine-Tressel Administration, the General Assembly, and our local partners to protect and provide healthy, accessible food for every Ohioan who needs it.”

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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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