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Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on Senate Passage of H.R. 1
Media Statement from Joree Novotny, executive director, Ohio Association of Foodbanks

“Everyone deserves access to fresh, nutritious food and affordable health care, yet hunger and hardship persist in every corner of Ohio and every congressional district in America. The reconciliation bill passed by the U.S. Senate today would significantly reduce federal investments in SNAP and Medicaid, transferring more financial responsibility to state governments at a time when state budgets are already strained and undermining help with affording food and health care when both are already too expensive for families.

“For the first time, this legislation would require states to pay for a significant share of the cost of SNAP benefits. Based on error rates [released yesterday by USDA](#), the State of Ohio would be responsible for nearly \$400 million in new SNAP costs annually under this proposal. With state budgets already stretched thin, this would force local policymakers to make painful decisions and leave more families without the support that helps communities thrive. It would put SNAP benefits at risk for every vulnerable, eligible person.

“This bill forces Ohio to either identify hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue, eliminate hundreds of millions of dollars in other critical public services, or risk reduction or elimination of SNAP benefits for every vulnerable Ohioan. In Ohio, there are nearly 10,000 SNAP retailers – all of whom will be impacted by SNAP cuts in this bill, especially those in rural communities. It would also jeopardize funding that helps keep hospitals, particularly in rural areas, financially stable and accessible for families who rely on them. These programs work together to promote health, reduce emergency room visits, support child wellness, and sustain communities, saving taxpayer dollars in the long run.

“Ohio’s foodbanks are proud of our important role in preventing hunger, promoting access to healthy food, reducing food waste, leading food as medicine work, and supporting families and seniors when they face budget shortfalls. Through partnership with individual donors, corporations, food manufacturers, farmers, grocers and retailers, and local, state, and federal governments, and thanks to the generous efforts of thousands of steadfast volunteers, social service organizations, and faith-based charities, we continue to work harder every day to prevent hunger for Ohioans in need.

“But though we do a whole lot with a little every day, we are not equipped to fill the gaps that these fundamental, structural changes and cuts would create for children, seniors, veterans, disabled Ohioans, and working families. We urge the U.S. House of Representatives to reject this bill because of the strain it will create on state budgets and the harm it will cause for Ohio families already struggling to meet their basic needs.”

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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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