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Ohio Association of Foodbanks Statement on the Ohio General Assembly's Leadership in SNAP EBT Modernization and Protecting Food Assistance Resources

Media Statement from Joree Novotny, executive director, Ohio Association of Foodbanks

“The Ohio Association of Foodbanks applauds the Ohio General Assembly for passing important fraud protections that will save taxpayer dollars and protect low-income Ohioans. The recent passage of SNAP EBT card modernization measures will enable the gradual implementation of a proven technology solution to prevent organized criminals from continuing to defraud Ohio families to the tune of millions of dollars. On behalf of Ohio’s foodbanks and the 650,000 Ohio households that turn to SNAP for help meeting their monthly food needs, we thank the 136th Ohio General Assembly and ask Governor DeWine to swiftly sign these provisions into law.

“We want to especially thank Senators Tim Schaffer and Hearcel Craig for their sponsorship of Sub. Senate Bill 315 and Representatives Kellie Deeter and Tristan Rader for their sponsorship of Am. House Bill 163. These bipartisan, bicameral leaders worked with a sense of urgency, alongside Senate President McColley, Speaker Huffman, Senate Finance leadership including Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, and Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson, House Agriculture leadership including Chair Klopfenstein, Vice Chair Newman, and Ranking Member Miller, and House Finance leadership including Chair Stewart, Vice Chair Dovilla, and Ranking Member Sweeney, to see this critical effort through to the finish line.

“Ohio’s foodbanks know intimately that resources are limited and that truly vulnerable people are counting on all of us to protect the integrity of food assistance programs. We work hard to supply 3,600 charitable partners and programs in all of Ohio’s 88 counties with food we have rescued and sourced from retailers, manufacturers, farmers, donors, and federal and state support. Thanks to these efforts, we can provide about one meal for every four meals that SNAP provides. But Ohio’s foodbanks simply do not have the capacity to quadruple our food rescue and distribution scope to replace the full value of SNAP benefits stolen by criminal actors. That’s why we are grateful for the Ohio General Assembly’s action and investment to protect access to supplemental food assistance for our neighbors in need.”

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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 their 3,600 member charities including food pantries, hot meals, and other hunger relief programs. In SFY 2025, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute more than 281 million pounds of food and grocery items. Visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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