

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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In Spite of Widespread Support, Ohio Senate Fails to Increase Funding for Foodbanks

Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:

“Throughout the Senate budget process, 18 amendments supporting an increase in funding for foodbanks were drafted by Democratic and Republican members alike. All 18 of those amendments were ultimately struck down, leaving Ohio’s foodbanks with inadequate resources to feed the more than one in five Ohioans that turn to our emergency food lines each month.

“On behalf of our 12 member foodbanks and 3,300 hunger relief agencies, I want to express my deep gratitude to all of the Senators that worked so diligently throughout the budget deliberations to try to provide additional support to help us serve hungry children, adults and seniors in the state of Ohio. Thank you for supporting our mission to ensure that the most vulnerable among us do not go without the basic necessity of nutritious food.

“We look forward to working with the members of the Conference Committee and Governor John Kasich as the state budget process continues. Our modest request of an additional \$2.5 million per year over the 2014-15 biennium—for a total allocation of \$17 million per year—represents less than one dollar per person, per month served by Ohio’s emergency food assistance network. We will continue to advocate for this request so that foodbank shelves are not left bare and low-income working families and seniors do not go hungry.

“Governor Kasich remains a steadfast champion for the importance of access to adequate nutrition for all Ohioans. He knows that without it, our children cannot learn as well, our workers cannot be as productive, and our seniors cannot remain healthy and living in their own homes. We thank him for his visionary leadership and look forward to working with him to avoid this potentially devastating setback to our hungry neighbors and friends.”

Lisa Hamler-Fugitt is available for interviews with the media to underscore the need to retain full funding of foodbanks in the Ohio biennial budget. To arrange an interview with Lisa, please contact her at 614-271-4803 or lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org.

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 3,300 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2012, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 164 million pounds of food and grocery items. Follow the association on [Twitter](#), stay connected on [Facebook](#) and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

Contact: Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, Executive Director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at 614-221-4336 ext. 222 or 614-271-4803 (cell) or lisa@ohiofoodbanks.org