

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 22, 2015

Response to Passage of Amended House Bill 64 by Ohio House of Representatives

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

“On behalf of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, and our 12 member foodbanks and 3,300 hunger relief agencies that serve more than 2 million different Ohioans each year, I want to thank the entire Ohio House of Representatives, including members of House leadership and members serving on the Ohio House Finance Committee, for the time, energy and considerations they invested throughout this budget process.

“We are profoundly thankful that the Ohio House of Representatives demonstrated their support for hungry Ohioans through the passage of amended H.B. 64 today. By supporting an additional \$2.75 million per year in the 2016-17 biennial budget for Ohio’s foodbanks, for a total of \$17.25 million per year, members of the Ohio House have signaled their commitment to ensuring their constituents have access to nutritious food. Thank you for recognizing the devastating and lasting impacts that hunger has on long-term educational achievement, worker productivity and health outcomes and the importance of taking action against the hunger crisis in Ohio.

“Our network provided emergency food to 2 million different Ohioans last year, or more than one in six people in our state. We cannot address the real and pressing issue of hunger in Ohio without the support of every sector, including our local, state and federal governments. We thank the members of the Ohio House for making this important investment that not only puts nutritious food on the table for our most vulnerable individuals and families, but also prevents food from going to waste in the fields of Ohio farms. We look forward to working with members of the Ohio Senate to bolster support for this critical issue.”

##

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 2014, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 186 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association also serves as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank and operates the state’s largest navigator program for the Affordable Care Act. 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