

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 14, 2015

Response to 2016-17 Biennial Budget as Proposed by Ohio House

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 members of the Ohio House and leaders of the Ohio House Finance Committee for the time, energy and thought they invested throughout this budget process. We know how difficult these decisions can be, and we thank you for your commitment to making decisions in the best interest of all Ohioans.

“We are profoundly thankful that Speaker Cliff Rosenberger, members of House leadership, Representative Ryan Smith, finance chairman, and members of the Ohio House Finance Health and Human Services Subcommittee, including Representative Robert Sprague, chairman, and Representatives Mark Romanchuk, Nickie Antonio, Barbara Sears and Emilia Sykes, demonstrated their support for hungry Ohioans by proposing 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. It took courage to stand up for vulnerable individuals and families that are often otherwise left in the shadows.

“Demand for help from foodbanks is up 40 percent in our state since 2010. We thank the members of the House for proposing increased support for Ohio’s foodbanks, in light of this overwhelming need. However, we will continue to seek a full \$20 million per year to help us respond to the very real and prevalent presence of hunger in Ohio as the budget process comes to a close in the House and begins in the Senate. This modest investment, which represents a mere 83 cents per person, per meal served through our network, will pay dividends in educational achievement, worker productivity and health care outcomes.

“We thank members of the House for their hard work during this budget process and look forward to working with them and their colleagues in the Senate to make sure no Ohioan goes without adequate, nutritious food.”

##

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