

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 20, 2014

Response to Mid-Biennium Review Budget as Proposed by Ohio Senate

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

“On behalf of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks and the hundreds of thousands of Ohioans we serve every month through our emergency food programs and other programs, we want to thank the members of the Senate Finance Committee for their hard work on and support of H.B. 483, Governor John R. Kasich’s mid-biennium review budget. We applaud the committee for working in a bipartisan manner to increase the state’s new Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) from 5 percent to 10 percent of the federal credit, as accepted in the amendment offered by Senator Shirley Smith.

“We know that millions of our friends and neighbors continue to live in poverty, in spite of working hard every day, due to low wages and the rising costs of living. We urge the Ohio General Assembly to join with Governor Kasich, Senator Shirley Smith and members of the Ohio Senate Finance Committee in support of this bipartisan provision to help make work pay.

“In the most recent tax season, we helped more than 25,000 Ohioans claim more than \$44.4 million in potential tax refunds and credits by filing their taxes for free through The Ohio Benefit Bank™. The average annual adjusted gross income (AGI) for households that filed their taxes with The Ohio Benefit Bank was just \$18,055, and over 9,500 households claimed the federal EITC. We encourage the state to make its EITC even stronger by making the credit refundable. Along with policies like the proposed personal exemption increase, these tax credits truly make work pay for low-wage earners.

“We thank Governor Kasich for his continued leadership and look forward to working with him and members of the Ohio General Assembly to ensure that Ohio’s foodbanks and their 3,300 member food pantries and soup kitchen are given consideration for future funding to respond to growing demand in our network.”

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 2013, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 173 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.

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