

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 25, 2015

Response to Today's U.S. Supreme Court Ruling in King vs. Burwell

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

“As an organization that operates Ohio’s largest federal Navigator program – and an organization that witnesses the importance of access to affordable health care every day – we are pleased that today’s U.S. Supreme Court ruling solidifies access to subsidies that put health coverage within reach for hundreds of thousands of Ohioans.

“We are thankful that this ruling does not punish hardworking Ohioans solely because Ohio utilizes the federally-facilitated Health Insurance Marketplace. It affirms the intent of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to connect individuals and families with health insurance options that meet their needs and fit within their household budgets.

“Along with our consortium partners, we are proud to provide Navigator services to any Ohioan with questions about their health coverage options. We are happy to respond to questions from consumers about their current coverage, their eligibility for new coverage and the 2016 open enrollment period. We remind consumers that they can apply for coverage through Medicaid year-round, and that they may be able to enroll in a Qualified Health Plan through the Marketplace outside of open enrollment if they experienced a qualifying life event like marriage, job loss and more. Consumers can call our toll-free consumer assistance hotline at 1-800-648-1176, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or visit www.areyoucoveredohio.org for more information.”

###

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: Jason Elchert, Deputy Director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks at 614-221-4336 ext. 224 or 614-937-2046 (cell) or jason@ohiofoodbanks.org

- or -

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