

OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Ohio Association of Foodbanks Dismayed by Passage of Harmful Nutrition Bill in the House

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

“On behalf of the more than 1.8 million Ohioans who rely on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) benefits to help feed themselves and their families, I am outraged by the passage of H.R. 3102, a harmful stand-alone nutrition bill.

The Ohio congressional members that voted in support of this bill, including Representative Steve Chabot (R - 01), Representative Brad Wenstrup (R - 02), Representative Jim Jordan (R - 04), Representative Bob Latta (R - 05), Representative Bill Johnson (R - 06), Representative Bob Gibbs (R - 07), Speaker John A. Boehner (R - 08), Representative Michael R. Turner (R - 10), Representative Patrick J. Tiberi (R - 12), Representative Dave Joyce (R - 14), Representative Steve Stivers (R - 15), Representative James B. Renacci (R - 16), voted in favor of increasing hunger among our most vulnerable citizens.

We are thankful for the leadership of the Ohio congressional members that stood firm and voted ‘no’ on this bill: Representative Joyce Beatty (D - 03), Representative Marcy Kaptur (D - 09), Representative Marcia L. Fudge (D - 11), Representative Tim Ryan (D - 13).

“Significant reductions to SNAP benefits are already slated to begin in November that will mean an average of \$36 less per month for a family of four. This ‘yes’ vote demonstrates that Congress is largely ignoring its constituents, who according to [Food Research and Action Center polling data](#) widely believe that cutting the food stamp program is the wrong way to reduce government spending.

“Congress shouldn’t be turning to Ohio’s poorest people to find savings—especially children and others who are unable to work for their own food. The proposal the Ohio members of Congress supported is immoral, and our lawmakers must work together to represent all their constituents. No one should be in the business of causing hunger, yet that’s the choice the Ohio members of Congress made today.”

“The vulnerable people that we serve every day— the children, seniors, veterans, people living with disabilities, working families and unemployed or underemployed adults that rely on SNAP to meet their basic nutritional needs— have been further marginalized by this vote. We look now to the Senate for a firm rejection of this bill and the passage of a strong, bipartisan Farm Bill that ensures people living in poverty are not forgotten.”

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Lisa Hamler-Fugitt is available for interviews related to hunger relief in Ohio and the importance of a strong federal safety net. 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.

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