



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 21, 2018

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

“On behalf of the 12 Ohio Feeding America foodbanks and 3,300 member charities we serve, we are grateful for Governor Kasich’s leadership for expanding Medicaid and protecting Ohio’s most vulnerable citizens.

“The benefits of Medicaid expansion are plain and simple – it allows more than 700,000 low-income Ohioans access to health benefits who are now on the path to wellness and achieving self sufficiency.

“Despite an improving economy, 16.2 percent of households in Ohio, or one in six, still struggle to buy enough food for themselves and their families.

“We know that hunger is a symptom of poverty and the Ohioans we serve report that their household income is inadequate to cover their basic expenses, often forcing them to make tough choices. Fifty-four percent of households have at least one working adult, yet the jobs they have do not pay enough to meet their basic needs, and their budget for food is often sacrificed.

“As we continue to climb out of the Great Recession, we cannot afford setbacks from harmful proposals that threaten access to health care. We urge members of the Ohio General Assembly to stay the course and commit to protecting the Medicaid expansion, that maintain a strong safety net for low-income families, persons with disabilities, seniors and veterans.”

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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 2017, the association and its member foodbanks were able to acquire and distribute over 216 million pounds of food and grocery items. The association has also served as the home of The Ohio Benefit Bank since 2006. Follow the association on Twitter, stay connected on Facebook and visit them on the web at www.ohiofoodbanks.org.

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