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Proposed USDA Rule Circumvents Bipartisan Congressional Commitment to SNAP
Media Statement from Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, executive director for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks:

“Today, amidst a period of extraordinary partisanship, Congress came to a compromise and sent a widely bipartisan Farm Bill to President Trump’s desk for his signature. This Farm Bill reiterates the value of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), not only to food insecure Americans, but to the communities in which they live. Members of Congress ultimately recognized that in order for our food system to remain strong and solvent, farmers and families alike need the security and peace of mind that comes with robust nutrition programs that ensure no American goes hungry.

“Unfortunately, in direct contradiction with this bipartisan legislation, the Trump Administration released a proposed rule today that would restrict states’ ability to provide SNAP benefits to childless adults living in high unemployment areas who are struggling to find a steady job. Once again, the Trump Administration is attempting to circumvent the will of Congress.

“Taking essential benefits like food assistance away from those who are unemployed or struggling to piece together temporary, contingent jobs wouldn’t address the inequities in the labor market or the challenges that so many workers face. It would merely increase hunger and drive childless adults coping with everything from a lack of transportation, a lack of a high school diploma, or undiagnosed physical or mental illnesses further into the shadows.

“Almost every state, including Ohio, has waived work requirements at some point in areas of high unemployment. It does no one any good to deny basic food assistance to anyone. The individuals that would be impacted by this rule live in our communities. They are incredibly vulnerable, with limited skills and education, criminal records, transportation challenges and other barriers to employment. And now the Trump Administration is telling them that they won’t even be able to count on basic help with food. It’s an incredibly Scrooge-like response to people down on their luck, and we will be urging the Administration not to move forward with this rule.”

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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 3,500 member charities including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. In SFY 2018, 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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