



October 29th, 2025

The Honorable Mike DeWine

Governor of Ohio
77 Soth High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor DeWine,

I am writing to respectfully request your partnership and leadership in ensuring that the nearly 1.5 million Ohioans at risk of food insecurity do not go without assistance in the coming days. As we approach November 1st, the uncertainty surrounding the federal government shutdown has placed essential safety-net programs such as SNAP, WIC, and TANF in jeopardy. We must act swiftly and decisively to protect our most vulnerable residents—families, seniors, and children—who will be most impacted by this disruption. Mahoning County, and the district that I serve, Jobs and Family Services issues approximately \$7.6 million in SNAP benefits alone, to 39,500 recipients.

My colleague, Representative Humprey, has introduced House Bill 502, which seeks to provide immediate relief by securing temporary emergency food assistance if federal funding lapses. While I understand your administration's concerns regarding the use of the Rainy Day Fund, I believe we have an obligation and responsibility to care for our constituents' basic needs. I know that we can find innovative pathways to bridge this gap without compromising the state's fiscal stability.

Other states are already demonstrating that swift, compassionate action is possible. Louisiana, for instance, recently authorized up to \$150 million per month from state-level resources—outside of its rainy-day reserve—to ensure continuity of SNAP benefits for children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Ohio has long been a leader in pragmatic problem-solving, and I believe we can meet this challenge with the same determination. We cannot allow another state to move faster than us when it comes to caring for our most vulnerable citizens.

In that spirit, I respectfully urge your administration to consider the following potential funding and administrative options:

- Utilizing **Controlling Board emergency appropriations** to redirect existing or surplus state funds;
- Allowing **temporary transfers** from agency budget reserves, particularly within the Department of Job and Family Services and the Department of Health;
- Exploring **public-private partnerships** with food banks, faith-based organizations, and community foundations to extend limited state dollars during the emergency period; and
- Issuing a **targeted emergency order** to activate available administrative flexibility and authorize temporary assistance until federal funding resumes.

Our nonprofits and community partners—though steadfast and dedicated—cannot shoulder this responsibility alone. Ohio has both the capacity and the moral duty to safeguard its people during moments of national uncertainty.

Governor DeWine, I deeply value your continued leadership and commitment to serving all Ohioans. I would welcome the opportunity to work closely with you and your administration—**in whatever way we can—to identify and implement a timely, compassionate, and fiscally sound solution that ensures no family, child, or senior in our state goes hungry due to circumstances beyond their control.**

Thank you for your time, consideration, and partnership in this urgent matter. I look forward to collaborating with you to uphold the shared values that make Ohio strong: responsibility, compassion, and care for our people.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Lauren McNally". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L" and "M".

Lauren McNally

Ohio State Representative District 58