



October 28th, 2025

Office of the Governor  
Attn: The Honorable Mike DeWine  
77 S High St, 30th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor DeWine:

On behalf of the Ohioans we represent, we are writing to you today because a humanitarian crisis is fast approaching and it demands our collective action. Beginning Saturday, November 1st, 1.4 million Ohioans are at risk of going hungry when the federal government fails to disburse SNAP benefits due to the government shutdown. Without these funds, low-income Ohioans cannot purchase food that they need to sustain themselves and their families. This is a statewide emergency in all 88 counties and we are calling for you to meet this moment with the urgency that it demands.

Governor, we are asking that - by tomorrow - you declare a state of emergency, provide state funds to foodbanks to meet the needs of hungry Ohioans, and mobilize the national guard to distribute food on an as needed basis in coordination with the foodbanks. Ohio families will go hungry without SNAP benefits, including over a half million children, over 250,000 seniors, and an estimated 45,000 veterans. Time is of the essence, and we need to act before Saturday's deadline.

It does not matter where we stand on the respective sides of the battle over healthcare premiums in D.C., the reality is that the most vulnerable people across our state are going to go hungry if we do not act.

We are urging leadership in the face of this crisis.

First, that you use your executive authority as Governor to immediately declare a state of emergency. The millions of people who rely on these benefits have had almost no warning or ability to plan, and there is next to no infrastructure in place to make up the gaps at the local level. The Ohio Constitution grants you the power to declare emergencies, and over half a million empty stomachs in Ohio's children certainly meets the mark.

Second, we ask that you work with the legislature to unlock up to \$100M, paid in installments until this government shutdown ends, to ensure that our foodbanks can feed those in need. The nearly \$200M of funds in the Controlling Board's emergency fund are the most viable option and can be accessed immediately.

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We also have a rainy day fund for a reason, and *it is about to be raining in Ohio*. We could look to utilize from the same source that was used to provide \$600M to the owners of a sports stadium, our unclaimed funds account. There are multiple avenues to find the funding, the question now is if there is a will to take the needed action.

Representative Humphrey has introduced House Bill 502, which seeks to provide immediate relief by securing temporary emergency food assistance in the event that federal funding lapses. We urge support of this and similar efforts. If the federal Department of Agriculture has access to emergency funds to utilize to maintain SNAP, such as the billions of dollars available in the SNAP contingency fund, we ask that you urge Congress to release those funds. We stand ready to support those efforts in whatever ways we can.

Finally, due to the severity of this emergency, we ask that you explore deploying the Ohio national guard to support our food banks with food delivery if requested.

Other states are leading the way, and we cannot let them do more for their residents than Ohio is willing to do for ours. Louisiana's House of Representatives unanimously passed a resolution to use their rainy day fund to fill a \$150 million dollar hole and their Governor declared a state of emergency. Virginia, New York, and other states are also taking steps to ensure that their citizens do not go hungry.

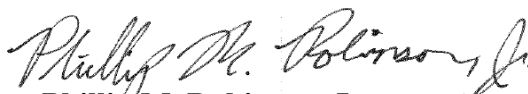
One hungry Ohioan is one too many. 1.4 million is a tragedy that we must do everything we can to prevent. Solutions are available and time is running short. Hundreds of thousands of children and seniors are counting on us to act. Ohio families should not have to choose between buying food or medicine or keeping the heat on because of the State's failure to respond to this urgent crisis. We are ready to work with you and the majority legislative leaders to explore any and all options to address this looming crisis that threatens the safety and health of over a million Ohioans.

Respectfully,

All 34 Members of the Ohio House Democratic Caucus



**Dani Isaacsohn**  
Minority Leader  
24th House District



**Phillip M. Robinson, Jr.**  
Assistant Minority Leader  
19th House District



**Beryl Brown Piccolantonio**  
Minority Whip  
4th House District



**Desiree Tims**  
Assistant Minority Whip  
38th House District



**Dontavius Jarrells**  
State Representative  
1st House District



**Latyna M. Humphrey**  
State Representative  
2nd House District



**Ismail Mohamed**  
State Representative  
3rd House District



**Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe**  
State Representative  
5th House District



**Christine Cockley**  
State Representative  
6th House District



**C. Allison Russo**  
State Representative  
7th House District



**Anita Somani, MD**  
State Representative  
8th House District



**Munira Abdullahi**  
State Representative  
9th House District



**Mark Sigrist**  
State Representative  
10th House District



**Crystal Lett**  
State Representative  
11th House District



**Tristan Rader**  
State Representative  
13th House District



**Sean P. Brennan**  
State Representative  
14th House District



**Chris Glassburn**  
State Representative  
15th House District



**Juanita O. Brent**  
State Representative  
18th House District



**Eric Synenberg**  
State Representative  
21st House District



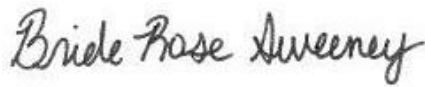
**Daniel P. Troy**  
State Representative  
23rd House District



**Ashley Bryant Bailey**  
State Representative  
26th House District



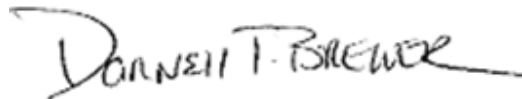
**Karen Brownlee**  
State Representative  
28th House District



**Bride Rose Sweeney**  
State Representative  
16th House District



**Terrence Upchurch**  
State Representative  
20th House District



**Darnell T. Brewer**  
State Representative  
22nd House District



**Cecil Thomas**  
State Representative  
25th House District



**Rachel B. Baker**  
State Representative  
27th House District



**Veronica R. Sims**  
State Representative  
33rd House District



**Derrick Hall**  
State Representative  
34th House District



**Erika White**  
State Representative  
41st House District



**Elgin Rogers, Jr.**  
State Representative  
42nd House District



**Michele Grim**  
State Representative  
43rd House District



**Joseph A. Miller, III**  
State Representative  
53rd House District



**Lauren McNally**  
State Representative  
58th House District