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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**September 2017**

Federal Budget

**SNAP helps workers put food on the table**

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The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps, is the nation’s most effective anti-hunger program and critical part of the social safety net for workers. In Ohio, 10 percent of all workers, or 523,800 people, are SNAP recipients. These Ohioans work at well-known organizations like Target, Kroger, and the Cleveland Clinic. Of Ohio’s top 13 occupations, eight do not pay well enough to eliminate the need for food assistance for a family of three. SNAP is in an important support for low-wage workers.

Most non-elderly, able-bodied adults receiving SNAP work. Federal law requires childless, working-age, able-bodied adults to work at least 20 hours per week to receive SNAP. The only exception to this rule is a waiver for areas with very high unemployment. Under Governor Kasich, Ohio has not taken full advantage of the waiver for urban high unemployment areas; instead, the administration has favored rural areas. The Trump proposal includes harsher work requirements. Two-thirds of people receiving SNAP are people we do not expect work: children (42.1 percent), disabled adults (13.3 percent), and elderly people (10.6 percent). Nutritious food is a human right and whether or not a person is working they have a right to be able to feed themselves and their family.

The Trump budget proposal and the House Budget Committee’s budget resolution seek to slash funding for SNAP to fund tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. The cuts would be accomplished by shifting the majority of SNAP costs to States by making it a block grant. The Trump proposal would cut SNAP by $193 billion over 10 years, costing Ohio $599 million a year in 2023 and $4.2 billion over 10 years. The House proposal is vague, but based on their 2017 proposal, it would cut SNAP by $150 billion nationally with $125 billion in cost shifts to states through a block grant. The trump proposal also includes more detailed plan for slashing benefits.

Our Representatives and Senators must take action to protect SNAP by ensuring:

* Taxes are not cut for the wealthy and corporations at the expense of SNAP recipients
* SNAP remains a federal program based on eligibility – not a block grant - and the cost of this essential safety net program does not shift to the states
* Benefits are maintained for the elderly, people with disabilities, large families, children and people in high unemployment areas
* Harsher work requirements are not mandated
* SNAP benefits meet the USDA thrifty benefits plan guidelines, which already only provides a bare-bones diet
* SNAP remains responsive to economic downturns through existing eligibility requirements.

Congress should not cut SNAP benefits to fund tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations. SNAP is critical support for working families.