



**Remarks by Representative Adam Miller before the Health Committee Regarding HB 44
(AS PREPARED 9/9/19)**

Thank you Chairman Merrin, Vice Chairman Manning, Ranking member Boyd. I want to recognize the joint sponsor and former member, Glenn Holmes for his leadership on this legislation.

Congress has 18 working days until October 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year. If there is no appropriations deal or a Continuing Resolution – CR, then it is déjà vu all over again and we are once again faced with a federal government shutdown.

HB 44 would ensure low income families do not go hungry as federal programs dry up due to any government shutdown. It would authorize the state to cover the federal share of these critical food aid programs. Ohio's Rainy Day Fund (Budget Stabilization Fund) has the funds.

Should we use that money, the federal government would be on the hook to pay back any budget obligations it failed to meet during its self-made shutdown.

This bill is revenue neutral. And should the federal government fail to make Ohio whole once it is back up and running, I will be the first one on the phone to Rob Portman, Sherrod Brown and Representatives Stivers and Beatty.

The recent Federal Government Shutdown lasted more than a month and federal workers and contractors were facing economic crisis. Often overlooked during that time were the recipients of food aid whose daily needs were threatened by the possibility of an extended shutdown.

SNAP, TANF, and WIC feed children. We can have a philosophical debate on government aid, but in the end, these programs feed children. Poor children. Hungry children. 1 out of every 5 of our children in this state.

Federal food aid programs must continue before, during, and after any DC gridlock. Ohio must take the lead in feeding those who do not know where they may find their next meal.

We have a moral obligation to step up and ensure that no child goes hungry regardless of the federal government's ability to provide timely appropriations.