

**Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 241**

**Representative Cheryl Grossman**

**Representative Mike Curtin**

**September 30, 2015**

**House State Government Committee**

Chairman Maag, Vice-Chair Kunze, Ranking Member Curtin and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 241. It is only fitting that today is the last day of September and my joint sponsor Representative Mike Curtin and I are here to give sponsor testimony on legislation to designate the month of September as “Hunger Action Month”.

Hunger, poverty and health are issues of grave concern in the United States and the State of Ohio and we are committed to taking steps to raise awareness about the need to combat hunger in every part of our state and to provide additional resources to Ohioans.

The relationship between eating well and the health of Ohio citizens are linked and those who suffer hunger are more often in poor health. More than one and six Ohioans (2,007,500 unduplicated) were served food provided by the members of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks in 2014.

The members of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks distributed approximately 186 million pounds of food in 2014 through its network of food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other community organizations.

The food banks across the country, including the 12 members of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks- will host numerous events throughout the month of September to bring awareness and attention to encourage involvement in efforts to end hunger in their local community and throughout Ohio and encourage all

citizens to take part in its observance. We ask for your support on HB 241. Thank you, Chairman Maag.  
Representative Curtin and I will gladly answer any questions you may have.