



**State Representative Latyna M. Humphrey**

**Written Testimony regarding H. B. No. 288 - Fund SNAP, TANF, and WIC upon a lapse in federal funding Before the House Families and Aging Committee**

**April 9, 2024**

Thank you, Chair Schmidt, Vice-Chair Miller, and Ranking Member Denson, for granting me the opportunity to provide written testimony on HB288 today.

I would also like to thank my co-sponsor, Rep. Miller, for his assistance in advancing this bill.

As you all know, the impact of a federal government shutdown extends far beyond Washington D.C., particularly for Ohioans who rely on assistance to afford food and take care of their children. With nearly 2 million Ohio residents depending on federal aid for their nutritional needs, the stakes are too high not to act. House Bill 288 attempts to address this issue by empowering Ohio to access emergency funds if the federal government fails to allocate sufficient resources for essential food programs.

As my colleague emphasized, these programs, including SNAP, WIC, and TANF, provide vital support to Ohioans facing food insecurity. SNAP assists over 1.5 million individuals in Ohio in purchasing groceries, while WIC offers critical assistance to pregnant women and young children. TANF provides essential cash aid to families with children. In the event of a federal government shutdown, HB 288 ensures that Ohio steps in to safeguard the well-being of its residents, ensuring they do not go without assistance.

While there is currently no imminent threat of a government shutdown, the mere possibility of such an event creates uncertainty and anxiety for our constituents. However, history has shown that the federal government commits to reimbursing states for any additional expenditures incurred during shutdowns. Should the



need arise to tap into our emergency fund, the sole cost to Ohioans would be the temporary loss of interest on those funds.

Nevertheless, the assurance of food security for our most vulnerable populations—children, new mothers, and impoverished people—is invaluable.

Thank you for your attention. I am available to address any inquiries you may have.