

Committees:

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HB 178 Sponsor Testimony: House Community Revitalization Committee

Chair Click, Vice-Chair Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee:

Thank you for allowing me and Representative Williams the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 178, which would require the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services to provide a supplemental benefit allotment to qualifying senior citizen households participating in the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP.

Since the termination of the public health emergency, over 70,000 older Ohioan households have seen their monthly benefit reduced to \$23 a month after receiving substantially more during the emergency.

This legislation would increase that minimum benefit to \$50 per month with a state funded supplement. Eligibility to receive this supplemental benefit allotment must meet the following requirements:

1. Be an individual who is 60 years of age or older.
2. The individual currently receives a monthly supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) benefit allotment that is less than \$50.

States across the country have taken matters into their own hands to assure SNAP benefit adequacy for older adults by exploring ways to supplement the federal benefit with state dollars.

As Ohio lawmakers, shouldn't we be doing the same? This is an opportunity to make a legitimate impact in the health and well-being of older Ohioans.

The estimated cost of implementing this policy will depend on the date of implementation and would be subject to review and required reauthorization in future biennial budgets.

Mr. Chairman, and Committee members, I will now defer to my joint sponsor Representative Williams to provide his testimony on this bill. Thank you for your attention and consideration.