



May 13, 2025

**Ohio House Community Revitalization Committee
Proponent Testimony on House Bill 178**

Chairman Click, Vice Chairwoman Mullins, Ranking Member Brewer, and members of the House Community Revitalization Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony today on House Bill 178. My name is Dylan Armstrong and I'm a Public Policy Fellow with The Center for Community Solutions is an independent, nonpartisan policy and research center dedicated to delivering practical, data-driven solutions focused on improving health, social and economic conditions for Ohioans. We want to thank Representatives Williams and Troy for their work on HB 178, which would establish a supplemental benefit allotment for SNAP recipients 60 years old or older.

As we all know, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or 'food stamps') is our country's largest and most effective public assistance program, which also serves as the first line of defense against hunger. SNAP benefits are based on a household's income, size and allowable expenses. Economically insecure older adults – those with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (\$31,300/year for a single person in 2024) – are eligible for SNAP in Ohio. But, they may qualify for only the \$23 minimum benefit, which is not sufficient to cover rising food costs.

Older adults' SNAP participation is staggeringly low. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, only 50% of Ohio older adults who qualify for SNAP are receiving benefits. Increasing the minimum benefit can incentivize greater SNAP participation – including connecting many seniors to the program who are likely to qualify for a benefit amount that is higher than the monthly minimum and paid for entirely with federal dollars.

By providing a supplemental benefit allotment to SNAP recipients that are 60 years old or older the state can work to provide additional food security to older Ohioans. This will allow individuals to live a healthier, happier life.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony as Community Solutions always values the chance to weigh in on policy that would greatly impact the health and wellbeing of Ohioans. We would welcome the chance to share additional research that we have conducted in this space and are happy to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you!

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