

81st House District

Henry County

Columbus Office

Vern Riffe Center
77 S. High Street
13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6111
(614) 466-3760
Rep81@ohiohouse.gov
www.ohiohouse.gov

Committees

Development
Finance
Commerce & Labor
Community Revitalization



James Hoops
State Representative

May 12th, 2025

Chairman Young, Vice-Chair Ritter, Ranking Member Brown Piccolantonio, and members of the House Workforce and Higher Education Committee. Thank you again for allowing us to speak on House Bill 157 to enact the Hunger Free Campus Act. As my colleague mentioned, this legislation extends far beyond providing even the basic nourishment for our college students. Most importantly we hope, through favorable passage of this bill to pull back the curtain of food insecurity and foster an all-encompassing dialogue in order to further destigmatize hunger across this state.

Further, within this legislation we've established guiderails for the chancellor of Higher Ed to implement to allow for the most streamlined process for tackling such a vital and often overlooked issue. Such grants which the Chancellor will have discretion to award will only compound the efforts made through local foodbanks and food-drives across Ohio. Higher education remains a formidable period in the life of young Ohioans and comes with many stresses of its own. While hunger knows no race, sex or creed, it shouldn't exist any longer on the minds of our brightest students. Some of which may very well take your seats one day.

As my colleague echoed, nine other states have currently implemented such an act and are changing the lives of many students and their families by reducing such insecurities of hunger and reliably good nourishment. This bill will place Ohio at the forefront of tackling food insecurity in America and serve once again as a beacon by which more states will soon emulate. Thank you, Chair Young, Ranking Member Brown Piccolantonio and members of the committee. We are happy to answer any questions.

