

Good morning Chairman Dolan, Vice-Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee. My name is Tyra Jackson, and I am the Executive Director of Second Harvest Food Bank CCL.

Second Harvest Food Bank has served Clark, Champaign, and Logan Counties for the past 40 years. Each year, we have witnessed an increase in need in our community and the number of people/households facing food insecurity. In 2020, we provided food to over 65,000 unduplicated individuals by providing over 12 million meals. This could not have been done without the federal and state support we received to reach the ever-growing need in our community. Our network of food banks in Ohio work diligently each day to serve our communities to improve the health and lives of those who are food insecure. We work to shorten the lines and help people gain stability. Your continued support is needed.

Over the past year, Second Harvest Food Bank CCL witnessed a 76% increase in need in the communities we serve. This was a 93% increase in children and 96% increase in seniors. The number of meals provided increased by 116%. With this increase of people and meals served, our budget increased by nearly 200%. Our counties have watched several community - based agencies and businesses close that provided employment and support. These safety nets and employment opportunities are gone. While there is some normalcy returning, the impact the pandemic has had on many of the peoples' lives in our community will be long lasting. Projections state it could take 18-36 months for households to return to where they were before the pandemic.

Our local private donors, United Ways, foundations, corporations look to Second Harvest Food Bank to bring additional funding into our community to leverage the local dollars to meet the need. Each dollar we bring in we can provide 5-6 nutritious meals. We remained open during the entire pandemic. We actually provided more distributions and served more people than in previous years. We worked with our local government agencies and foundations to purchase refrigerated vehicles to deliver food directly to people's homes, especially seniors and those with disabilities. We also partnered with the homeless shelters to make sure everyone displaced due to the pandemic received healthy meals. We filled the gaps that COVID-19 created. We used federal, state, and local dollars to make sure people didn't go hungry.

Client Story-

Barb is helping to take care of her daughter and grandchildren. In October, her daughter and her four children moved in due to losing their housing. Her daughter is also without a job because the restaurant she worked at closed. Barb's retirement income is what the household is using for all their expenses. Her daughter, Sarah told her she had visited the food pantry before to receive assistance. Barb said she was reluctant to go at first and didn't know what to expect. She was shocked when she pulled into the Logan County fairground and saw all the cars. What shocked her the most was the amount of food they received. She called Second Harvest and shared her appreciation. She was excited to receive a hen, ground beef patties, cereal, canned chicken and tuna, condiments, canned vegetables and fruits, milk, vegetables, onions, potatoes, eggs, cheese, and butter. She said it made her cry. She wanted to thank us for helping so many at such a hard time.

I'm submitting written testimony to ask for your consideration and support of Amendments SC2155 and SC2155X1 to H.B. 110, which would provide a one-time-only, temporary 2-year funding increase of \$20 million per year in Section 307.40 to help provide: emergency food assistance relief through the Ohio

Association of Foodbanks Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program; other essential household non-food items that can't be purchased with SNAP benefits; and a \$1 million investment per year to support capacity building for local hunger relief organizations to ensure hard-hit communities don't lose local access to charitable relief.

Clark, Champaign, and Logan County residents struggled before the pandemic. Our childhood food insecurity rates are higher than the state and national averages. We recently had grocery stores close that created larger food deserts. People need Second Harvest Food Bank's support to survive. Second Harvest Food Bank and the entire food bank network needs the State's support to meet the basic need of food in our community.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nya L. Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.