

Committees:

Ways and Means (Ranking Member)

Finance and Appropriations

**Finance Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Development, and Natural Resources
(Ranking Member)**

State and Local Government

Public Utilities

Armed Services



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HB 428 Sponsor Testimony: House Government Oversight Committee

Chair Peterson, Vice-Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony on House Bill 428, 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 for the last 3 years.

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. Include an individual who is 60 years of age or older.
2. That 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 fully funded 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 is somewhere between \$30 and \$40 Million (or substantially less depending upon the date of implementation) over the remainder of this biennium and would be subject to review and required reauthorization in the next biennial budget.

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