**ISSUE:**

The Senate included provisions into the State budget from SB 17. These changes will require asset testing, such as if a family owns a car, they may be denied food assistance. The language also requires change reporting – which means that if a family member picks up some overtime, they might lose their benefits for the following month. These changes penalize people working hard to get ahead.

**Topline Message:**

The changes proposed in the state budget will increase hunger in our communities.

**Supporting Messages:**

* These changes were inserted in the 11th hour without a chance for review or vetting.
* These changes will create unmanageable bureaucracy that will lead to delays and complications in applications.
* The benefit cliff is real. These changes will make it much worse and discourage people from working.
* Asset testing is pennywise pound foolish – denying food assistance to a family with a car or home is foolish long-term economic planning.
* These changes penalize people for working hard to get ahead.

**Sample 1:**

The Senate Finance Committee included last minute changes to the state budget that will make life harder for families struggling with hunger. As a person of faith, I want programs like SNAP to work effectively and efficiently to minimize hunger in our community. The proposed changes will penalize workers who have a car to get to work as well as workers who pick up overtime shifts when available. Modest changes to income should not result in a loss of benefits just like a family car should not deny food. I encourage the Budget Conference Committee to remove these provisions from the budget.

**Sample 2:**

As a person of faith, our food pantry can only do so much to help our hungry neighbors. SNAP is the number one defense against hunger in our communities strengthening our local economy and keeping food on the table. The changes to SNAP administration proposed in the 11th hour of our state budget will increase hunger in our communities by penalizing people who are working hard by taking away their benefits. The changes around asset tests and change reporting will punish a person for having a car to get to work or driving uber to earn extra money. Let’s stop punishing people for working to get ahead and help them to find the financial stability they need to thrive! Governor DeWine should veto this language if it remains in the budget.