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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO
October 2, 2015

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The Honorable John R. Kasich
Governor, State of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Governor Kasich,

I am writing to express my strong disappointment in your decision to exclude many eligible areas, including Youngstown and Warren, in your request of a time limit waiver for Supplemental Nutrition Aid Program. It is disheartening to know that this waiver does not include almost 70 percent of those men and women who lost their food aid in the last two years.

As you are aware, the Supplemental Nutrition Aid Program (SNAP) stipulates that waivers may be requested to extend the time limit for adults who are not elderly, disabled or parents with custody of minor children during time of economic recession. A city or county is eligible if its unemployment rate during 2013 and 2014 was at least 20 percent above the national average of 6.8 percent, this would make Youngstown, Warren, Mahoning County and Trumbull County eligible for this aid.

As public officials we should be doing everything in our power to make sure the people we represent never go hungry. Ohio is currently ranked 3rd in the nation for families forced to skip meals or eat less because they don't have the money or resources to put food on the table. In Mahoning Valley alone, 92,000 people are food insecure, meaning that 1 in 4 children in the area are experiencing food insecurity. There is no reason why these areas should not be included in the waiver to extend time limits and give these people who are struggling the flexibility and resources necessary to not go hungry.

I strongly encourage you to reconsider extending the waiver to include all Ohio constituents living in eligible areas. It is my belief that no person should go hungry, and by making these changes we can help the lives of many Ohioans.

I stand ready to provide you with any additional information you might require. Thank you in advance for the time and attention you will give this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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