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**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

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

December 12, 2016

Dr. Jane Clary Loveless, National Program Leader  
USDA National Institutes of Food and Agriculture  
800 9th Street S.W.  
Washington, DC. 20024

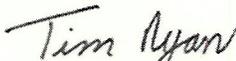
Dear Dr. Clary Loveless:

I am pleased to support the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation (YNDC) as they pursue funding through the USDA, Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) program *Eating for Health: Expanding Fresh Food Access in the Mahoning Valley* for children and families living in distressed neighborhoods throughout the Mahoning Valley.

This project builds on the success of existing fresh food access programming and will increase the fresh fruit and vegetable consumption of approximately 15,000 Mahoning Valley residents. By working in concert with the Mercy Health Foundation and local food outlets, the project provides a comprehensive effort to improve fresh produce consumption in the city and gives residents the ability to act on recommendations to feed their families more nutritious foods. This request will help food-insecure families access increased amounts of fresh foods by providing additional coupons and vouchers for fresh produce on top of their food stamp purchases. By tying this incentive to the local health system including dental services, childhood immunizations, and mother and baby services, the program will teach people the importance of healthy eating for their family and give them a way to purchase fresh produce.

Again, I strongly support Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation's proposal that will aid in the health of families far past the end of the USDA grant. The need to provide access to healthy food choices for families in impoverished areas is crucial to improved health and a well-nourished population.

Sincerely,

  
Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

TR:pw

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