

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Katherine Clark, U.S. House
The Honorable James McGovern, U.S. House
The Honorable Stephen Lynch, U.S. House
The Honorable Jake Auchincloss, U.S. House
The Honorable Lori Trahan, U.S. House

The Honorable Edward Markey, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Richard Neal, U.S. House
The Honorable William Keating, U.S. House
The Honorable Ayanna Pressley, U.S. House
The Honorable Seth Moulton, U.S. House

February 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation:

As Massachusetts state-wide and community-based organizations that serve low-income residents of the Commonwealth, we wish to thank the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation for your leadership and steadfast commitment to protect and defend crucial federal safety-net programs. We, the undersigned 150 organizations, urge you to oppose any actions that would weaken or undermine access to vital anti-poverty programs.

Congress is currently considering severe cuts to safety-net programs, including SNAP, Medicaid, and TANF, through Budget Reconciliation. These programs reduce poverty and food insecurity, enhance health, and bring billions of federal dollars in economic stimulus per year into Massachusetts.

Medicaid (MassHealth) covers [over 2 million people](#): more than a quarter of Massachusetts residents and almost half of all children in the state. MassHealth makes up about 50% of revenues for community health centers and nursing homes, and is also the main source of federal revenue to Massachusetts: in FY2025, approximately \$12.3 billion (86% of all federal revenue) was generated by Medicaid and CHIP. Another 280,000 Massachusetts residents are able to afford private insurance through the Health Connector with the help of [over \\$1 billion in federal premium tax credits](#).

About [670,000 MA families - 1 in 6 residents](#) - are connected to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to help put food on the table. The average SNAP benefit is [\\$10.80 per household per day](#), \$330 per month - bringing \$2.7 billion federal nutrition dollars to Massachusetts per year. These food dollars are spent at over 5,000 local grocery stores and provide significant economic stimulus to local economies.

The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant provides funding Massachusetts uses to provide cash assistance to help meet the basic needs of [45,000 families](#), including 75,000 children, with no income or extremely low income. TANF also provides millions of dollars in critical funds for early education and care for the Commonwealth's children so their parents can work.

Federal proposals to cut, structurally harm, or weaken any of these programs would devastate Massachusetts families, local economies, and our state's efforts to end hunger and poverty.

We are opposed to massive [cuts contemplated in a possible Budget Reconciliation bill](#). At the same time that Congressional Republicans are proposing to shred the safety net, they are proposing [tax cuts for the wealthy](#). Many of the harmful proposals explicitly cut federal matching rates, restrict program eligibility rules or reduce benefits; others cut benefits under the guise of failed policies like work reporting requirements.

We strongly object to efforts to add or expand harsh and ineffective rules that condition assistance on meeting burdensome work reporting requirements. Decades of evidence have shown that work requirements don't work. In fact, work requirements have been shown to push families deeper into poverty.¹ Work requirements - the origins of which are directly linked to racist and misogynist myths about the deservingness of welfare recipients² - ignore the systemic barriers that make it difficult for low income adults to get and keep jobs that pay a living wage: education barriers, employers with inconsistent hours, lack of affordable childcare, and wages that don't keep up with housing and living costs. Further, work rules add bureaucratic red tape to complex government programs - throwing eligible families off critical programs and adding to state administrative costs.

We urge you to speak out forcefully in opposition to any proposals that would harm SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid, and the millions of Massachusetts residents who rely on them. We stand firm and united in our shared commitment to protecting these essential benefits. We can readily provide you data, stories, and expertise to use when strongly opposing damaging proposals.

Please contact Vicky Negus (vnegus@mlri.org) at the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute with questions.

Sincerely,

The undersigned 150 organizations:

¹ For example, see Center on Budget and Policy Priorities analysis:

[Expanding Work Requirements Would Make It Harder for People to Meet Basic Needs](#)
[Medicaid Work Requirements Could Put 36 Million People at Risk of Losing Health Coverage](#)
[Republican SNAP Proposals Threaten the Food Security of Millions of Workers and People Between Jobs](#)
[Work Requirements for Cash Assistance Fueled Rise in Deep Poverty](#)

² See Center for the Study of Social Policy's [The Racist Roots of Work Requirements](#), and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities' [TANF Policies Reflect Racist Legacy of Cash Assistance](#).

Statewide Organizations

Boston Children's Hospital	Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice (formerly MLPB)
Building Audacity	Mass Aging Access
Center for Public Representation	Mass General Brigham
Center to Support Immigrant Organizing/Equity Now & Beyond	Mass. Chap. of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
Children's HealthWatch	Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center (MassBudget)
Community Care Cooperative (C3)	Massachusetts Councils on Aging
Community Resource Initiative	Massachusetts Food System Collaborative
Community Servings	Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative
Dignity Alliance Massachusetts	Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Disability Law Center, Inc.	Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Disability Policy Consortium	Our Bodies Ourselves
Equity Now & Beyond	OutstandingLife, Inc.
Federation for Children with Special Needs	Project Bread
FoodCorps	SCIBoston
Health Care For All	Second Thoughts MA
Health Law Advocates	SEIU Local 509
Home Care Aide Council	Spoonfuls
HopeWell	Stop Bullying Coalition
Horizons For Homeless Children	The Psychological Center
Just Roots	Veterans Legal Services
Justice 4 Housing	

Western MA Organizations

Amherst Survival Center	Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry of Christian Assembly Church
Berkshire Bounty	Metrowest Legal Services
Food Bank of Western Massachusetts	NELCWIT
Franklin County/North Quabbin CHIP Network (a Franklin Regional Council of Governments project)	Nordica Street Community Farm
Grow Food Northampton	Revere Housing Authority
Holyoke Food and Equity Collective	Seeds of Solidarity
Huntington Food Pantry	The Collaborative for Educational Services
	The Parish Cupboard
	Wendell Good Neighbors Inc.

Central MA Organizations

Ascentria	Prescott Mill Apartments
Center for Living & Working, Inc.	Regional Environmental Council of Central MA (REC)
Central West Justice Center	Ruth's Harvest Pantry
Lunenburg Community Food Pantry	Rutland MA Food Pantry
Mustard Seed Catholic Worker	

St. Anthony's Food Pantry, Worcester
Stone Soup Kitchen
The Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts
Tri-Valley, Inc.

Wachusett Food Pantry
Worcester Community Action Council
Worcester County Food Bank
Yes We Care

Eastern MA Organizations

All Saints Parish Brookline
Allston-Brighton Health Collaborative
Arlington EATS
Association for the Relief of Aged Women
Beacon Hill Village, Inc.
Belmont Farmers' Market
Belmont Food Collaborative
Boston Medical Center Health System
Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
(CEOC)
Citizens for Citizens
Citizens Inn
City of Boston Office of Food Justice
City of Revere Department of Public Health
CommonWealth Kitchen
Community Action Agency of Somerville, Inc.
Daily Table
Department of Veterans Services (Chelsea)
East Boston Social Centers
Economic Mobility Pathways, EMPATH
Everett Community Growers, Inc.
First Congregational Church of Revere Food
Pantry
Food Link
Franklin Food Pantry
Gleason and Greenfield Pediatrics
Greater Lowell Health Alliance
Health Leads
Hebrew SeniorLife
Jewish Family & Children's Service
Jewish Family Service of MetroWest MA
John F. Kennedy Family Service Center
Junior League of Boston
Justice 4 Housing
LifeScene
Lowell Alliance
Lynn Health Task Force
M.O. Food = L.I.F.E. Pantry
Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition

Medway Village Food Pantry
Merrimack Valley Food Bank, Inc.
Merrimack Valley YMCA
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
MetroWest Food Collaborative
MGB Revere Food Pantry
Mill City Grows
Mystic Valley Elder Services
Neighbors In Need
New Beginnings Reentry Services, Inc
Northeast Justice Center
Our Neighbors' Table, Inc.
Personal Disability Consulting, Inc.
Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, Inc.
Revival Chelsea
Revival Road Farm
Rosie's Place
Selah Chelsea Day Resource Center
SeniorCare
Singular Pediatrics
Solidarity Lowell
Somerville Food Coalition
South Boston En Accion (SBEA)
St. Bonaventure Food Pantry
St. Francis House
Suffolk University Health Law Clinic
Temple Sinai of Sharon
The Community Family, Inc
The Food Project
The Greater Boston Food Bank
The Marion Institute, Inc.
The Neighborhood Developers
The Open Door
Three Sisters
United Neighbors of Fall River
Unity Provisions
YMCA of Greater Boston
YMCA Southcoast
YWCA Cambridge