

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 x, 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 X 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 the massive [cuts contemplated in a possible Budget Reconciliation bill](#): up to \$2.3 trillion from Medicaid, and \$347 billion from TANF and SNAP. 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 xx organizations- [running list until sign ons close on Thursday, 2/20 @ noon, form to sign on here:](#)

Amherst Survival Center
Ascentria
Boston Medical Center Health System
Building Audacity
City of Revere Department of Public Health
CommonWealth Kitchen

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](#).

Department of Veterans Services (Chelsea)
First Congregational Church of Revere Food Pantry
Food Link
Grow Food Northampton
Health Law Advocates
Holyoke Food and Equity Collective
Horizons For Homeless Children
Jewish Family & Children's Service
John F. Kennedy Family Service Center
Just Roots
LifeScene
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry of Christian Assembly Church
M.O. Food = L.I.F.E. Pantry
Massachusetts Councils on Aging
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Medway Village Food Pantry
Merrimack Valley Food Bank
NELCWIT
Nordica Street Community Farm
Our Neighbors' Table, Inc.
Personal Disability Consulting, Inc.
Prescott Mill Apartments
Regional Environmental Council of Central MA (REC)
Seeds of Solidarity
SEIU Local 509
Solidarity Lowell
South Boston En Accion (SBEA)
St. Bonaventure Food Pantry
Stone Soup Kitchen
The Collaborative for Educational Services
The Open Door
Wendell Good Neighbors Inc.
Worcester Community Action Council
Worcester County Food Bank
YMCA of Greater Boston
YMCA Southcoast