



April 1, 2025

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
 U.S. Representative Katherine Clark
 U.S. Representative James McGovern
 U.S. Representative William Keating
 U.S. Representative Ayanna Pressley
 U.S. Representative Jake Auchincloss

U.S. Senator Edward Markey
 U.S. Representative Richard Neal
 U.S. Representative Stephen Lynch
 U.S. Representative Lori Trahan
 U.S. Representative Seth Moulton

Dear Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of Chambers of Commerce across the Commonwealth, we extend our gratitude for your leadership and continued advocacy on behalf of Massachusetts’ communities and businesses. As organizations that serve as regional economic development engines and advocates for the business community—particularly small businesses—we are writing to express our deep concern regarding proposed cuts and restrictions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

These proposed changes would not only threaten the well-being of our most vulnerable residents—including low-income families, children, older adults, and people with disabilities—but also risk undermining the economic stability of our local communities and small businesses.

SNAP is an Economic Driver for Massachusetts Communities

In communities like Worcester, more than 54,000 residents rely on SNAP, bringing an estimated \$8 million in federal funds into the local economy every month. That’s nearly \$100 million annually—dollars that are spent at over 190 grocery stores, many of which are small, locally owned businesses operating on narrow margins. Statewide, SNAP currently serves 1 in 6 Massachusetts residents and brings to the Commonwealth nearly \$3 billion annually in federal nutrition dollars. It helps support the 5,500 grocery retailers and SNAP sales and administration in Massachusetts at the grocery store level contributed \$14.5 million in state and local tax revenues, and \$24.1 million in federal tax receipts¹. SNAP dollars also support Massachusetts farmers through redemption at local farmers markets and farm stands, helping to sustain agricultural businesses that are vital to our state’s economy, food system, and rural communities. Even small reductions in SNAP spending can translate to fewer purchases at markets and reduced income for farms and small stores already operating with slim margins. With rising input costs, labor shortages, and climate-related challenges, any dip in revenue can be make-or-break.

SNAP dollars spent at local markets stay in the community and generate additional economic activity. Cuts will have ripple effects across the supply chain, directly affecting these businesses and the jobs they support.

¹ <https://grocers.guerrillaeconomics.net/reports/c0d25045-44ab-4108-973d-c5abec224085>

Workforce and Small Business Stability Are at Risk

Access to essential supports like SNAP helps low-wage workers meet basic needs and remain in the workforce. When workers face food insecurity, their ability to show up for work, focus, and be productive is compromised—issues that directly impact our member businesses. The removal of pandemic-era SNAP benefits in 2023 has already created strain. Many families now report that their monthly benefits only cover two weeks of food. As a result, food pantries are overwhelmed, and food banks across the state are serving 50% more people than before the pandemic. If additional cuts proceed, Massachusetts businesses—especially small employers—will be left managing the fallout, including reduced consumer demand and increased employee instability.

Local Communities Cannot Fill the Gap

States, municipalities, and nonprofits are not equipped to absorb the loss of federal nutrition funding. As community leaders, we understand that a healthy economy depends on a healthy population. SNAP is a federal program with broad local impact—it ensures children are nourished and ready to learn, adults are fueled to work, and small businesses continue to benefit from steady customer demand.

We Strongly Urge You to Protect SNAP

We respectfully urge you to reject harmful cuts or restrictions to SNAP and other vital nutrition programs. These programs are not only lifelines for families but also critical tools for supporting workforce participation, consumer spending, and overall economic resilience.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your continued leadership and collaboration in protecting the health and prosperity of our communities and the small businesses that are the backbone of our state's economy.

Sincerely,



Timothy P. Murray, President & CEO, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

And undersigned Massachusetts Chambers of Commerce:

Jeannie Hebert, President and CEO, Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Marie Oliva, President & CEO, Cape Cod Canal Region Chamber

Erika Travinski, Board Chair, Central Mass South Chamber of Commerce

Lauren Nanof, Board Chair, Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce

Melissa Breor, Executive Director, Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce

Vince Jackson, Executive Director, Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce

Elizabeth Cruz, President, Latin American Business Organization (LABO)

Stephanie Viva, Executive Director, Mashpee Chamber of Commerce

Amy Naples, Executive Director, Plymouth Area and Duxbury Chambers of Commerce

Jennifer Stanovich, Executive Director, Wachusett Area Chamber of Commerce

Molyna Richards, Executive Director, Waltham Chamber of Commerce

John Milas, Executive Director, Webster Dudley Oxford Chamber of Commerce