ATTACHMENT K

July 16, 2021

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am returning to you for amendment Section 47 of House Bill No. 4002, “An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2022 for the Maintenance of the Departments, Boards, Commissions, Institutions and Certain Activities of the Commonwealth, for Interest, Sinking Fund and Serial Bond Requirements and for Certain Permanent Improvements.”

Section 47 requires the Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) to eliminate any asset test for Emergency Assistance to Elderly, Disabled and Children (EAEDC) applicants. EAEDC extends a vital lifeline to certain Massachusetts residents, but I disagree with eliminating the asset test completely. EAEDC is generally designed to provide a bridge to individuals waiting for an eligibility determination from the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program. The asset limit for the program should be aligned with eligibility for SSI.

For these reasons, I recommend that Section 47 be amended by striking out the section and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

SECTION 47. Said section 3 of said chapter 117A, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by inserting after the first paragraph the following paragraph:-

A household shall be ineligible for assistance under this chapter if their countable assets, as determined pursuant to DTA regulations, exceed the total amount of resources allowed under the federal Supplemental Security Income program; provided further, that vehicles shall be treated as countable assets in the same manner as allowed under the federal Supplemental Security Income program.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker

Governor