



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE BOSTON, MA 02133
(617) 725-4000

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 13, 2025

Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Craig, Chairman Boozman, and Ranking Member Klobuchar, and Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation:

I am writing to you today to express my profound alarm regarding the proposed changes to the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that would do many things, chief among them abruptly restructure the SNAP program funding mechanism, shifting significant cost to states that they did not plan for and cannot afford.

The federal government and states have spent decades building and running the SNAP program in partnership at the current cost structure, and to shift it at this scale will decimate trust in a longstanding program that supports vulnerable families and strengthens local economies. In 2024, eligible Massachusetts families received approximately \$2.6 billion in federal SNAP funds. The SNAP benefit cost sharing proposal would cost Massachusetts at least \$131.4M annually, and potentially up to \$650 million annually when considering the more drastic proposals of up to twenty-five percent state share. The proposal to change the administrative sharing formula from evenly split, to requiring the states pick up seventy-five percent would cost MA an additional \$53.3 million annually, the state share would grow from \$106.6 million currently to \$159.9 million. This is an exorbitant burden on Massachusetts, even at the lowest estimate of \$184.7 million. The Massachusetts state budget cannot absorb this cost, nor can other states, and that should be no surprise to the federal Administration.

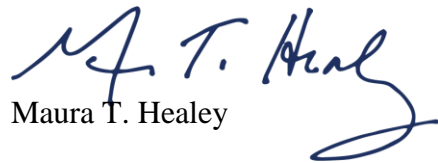
These proposed changes would create an impossible situation for our most vulnerable families and residents. SNAP supports more than one million Massachusetts residents, one third of whom are elderly, one quarter of them are children, and a quarter of those who receive SNAP in our state have a disability. They receive a modest benefit, which averages about \$10.70 per day per household. Beyond the direct benefits to families, SNAP is essential to the state's economy. Every dollar in SNAP benefits generates up to \$1.50 in local economic activity, supporting thousands of Massachusetts jobs across many different industries, including farmers, grocers, manufacturers, delivery drivers, and other positions throughout the food supply chain.

Food insecurity does not exist in isolation, it cascades through every aspect of life, impacting educational outcomes, workforce participation, and health outcomes. The SNAP program gives hard-working families a chance for economic mobility, and it helps parents give their children a

better future. It is vital that Congress does not turn its back on the citizens who need us the most, and we pursue ways to bolster SNAP and strengthen our nutrition safety net to support children and families.

I implore Congress to reject any proposal that would restructure the SNAP program funding model, forcing states to pick up the tab for federal benefits, and abandoning billions of dollars of federal responsibility. Massachusetts stands ready to partner with Congress to strengthen SNAP and find new avenues to promote economic mobility. I welcome the opportunity to discuss more productive means to help residents of Massachusetts and the country that do not involve undermining critical programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. T. Healey", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maura T. Healey