

# SNAP Cuts Would Cause Food Insecurity & Poverty For

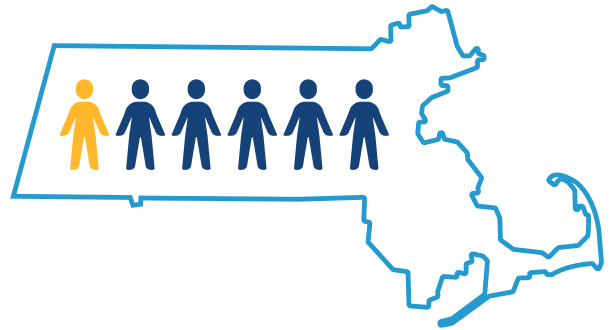
## 1 in 6 MA Residents

**MLRI**  
MASSACHUSETTS  
LAW REFORM  
INSTITUTE



### In Massachusetts...

- SNAP helps 1 in 6 MA residents put food on the table.
  - 665,000 households
  - 1,087,000 individuals



**24%** are 60 or older

**28%** are severely disabled

**32%** are children

- Each year, SNAP brings \$2.6 billion federal dollars to families and grocers/farmers across the Commonwealth.
- Each dollar of SNAP spent generates about **\$1.50 to \$1.70 for local economies.**



### Cutting SNAP Would...

- Devastate low-income households and harm children for generations to come
- Increase food insecurity and poverty
- Worsen health outcomes
- Weaken local economies and impact 5,500 grocers and farmers in MA
- Harm SNAP's role as an economic stabilizer during recessions

# Congressional Republicans are ignoring SNAP's proven effectiveness & considering severe cuts:

## State cost requirement



- Would require states to pay for a portion of SNAP benefits.
- Reneges on a nearly 50 year promise to the American people: SNAP is here to alleviate hunger.
- Forces cuts to SNAP benefits/eligibility, or cut funding for other priorities to fund SNAP.

**MA 20% state share: About \$530 million/year.**

*For perspective: Massachusetts invested over \$180 million in 2024 in universal free school meals.*

## Cutting SNAP Benefits



- Ends USDA's obligation to re-evaluate the underlying food costs used for SNAP benefit amounts (the "Thrifty Food Plan").
  - In 2021 USDA updated the Thrifty Food Plan for the first time in 50 years - benefits are now based on scientific nutrition standards, modern food prep, and food costs. SNAP increased an average of \$1.40/person/day.
- SNAP grants are still too low. Across MA, on average the cost of a meal is [43% higher](#) than the SNAP benefit. A cut of \$40/person/month would cause immense harm.

## Expanding failed work requirements



- Could expand to older adults and parents, restrict state choice to waive rules in areas with high unemployment.
- Decades of evidence show work rules:
  - Ignore systemic barriers in the labor market.
  - Increase hunger and poverty for adults struggling to get and stay connected to good jobs.
  - Create massive red-tape and burden.

## Shrinking eligibility and adding red tape



- Proposals to reduce SNAP's very low income limits, impose asset tests, shorten eligibility periods or other eligibility cuts:
  - Add red tape and access barriers.
  - Increase state administration costs.
  - Reduce the number of very low income families who can access food benefits.

**Hundreds of MA organizations, mayors, lawmakers, retailers and businesses, families, health professionals, and more stand firm: NO cuts to SNAP!**