Email letter to the following people:

- President Spilka- <u>Karen. Spilka@masenate.gov</u>
- Chairman Rodrigues <u>Michael.Rodrigues@masenate.gov</u>
- Your state senator/senators (find them & their emails here)

Insert your organization's logo

The Honorable Karen E. Spilka Senate President State House, Room 332 Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means State House, Room 212 Boston, MA 02133

<mark>DATE</mark>

RE: Request to Provide Funds to Replace Stolen SNAP In FY2025 Supplemental Budget

Dear President Spilka and Chairman Rodrigues:

[insert information about what your organization does - who you are, why you care about making sure victims of SNAP theft have stolen food benefits replaced, etc]

We write to request your urgent response to a crisis harming very low-income households across the Commonwealth: no recourse for SNAP households whose benefits are stolen by sophisticated criminal rings engaged in card skimming schemes. Victims of SNAP theft need the Senate to provide funding to replace stolen SNAP until the state issues more secure EBT cards to prevent theft.

We support the Governor's and the House proposals to provide funds for chip EBT cards in a FY25 supplemental budget (H. 4151). Investing in this theft-prevention technology will protect SNAP recipients and ensure taxpayer dollars are used as intended - to reduce hunger in Massachusetts, not line the pockets of thieves.

However, the proposed chip funding does not help theft victims who are going hungry now. It will take months for DTA to replace EBT cards for 665,000 SNAP households. In the meantime, victims of theft urgently need the state to reimburse stolen SNAP.

<u>As this Boston Globe article emphasized</u>, families who are stolen from are forced to make sacrifices like skipping meals to feed their kids, going without healthy food, and not paying rent or utilities. [if you have worked with clients who have been stolen from or have experience with the harms this brings, add/include that here]

We respectfully request that Senate Ways and Means include funds to replace stolen SNAP in the FY25 supplemental budget (H. 4151). Even a partial replacement will make a significant difference for victims of theft struggling to put food on the table.

<u>Here is a fact sheet with more information.</u> Please contact X with any questions.

Thank you for your work to make sure all Massachusetts residents can put food on the table.

Sincerely,

Your name/organization

Cc: Your Senator (find here)