



May 31, 2022

The Honorable Karen Spilka
The Honorable Michael Rodrigues
State House, Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Ronald Mariano
The Honorable Aaron Michlewitz
State House, Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senate President Spilka, Speaker Mariano, Chair Rodrigues, Chair Michlewitz:

I write today in strong support of Senate Bill 2811 and House Bill 4697, *An Act establishing the Massachusetts hunger-free campus initiative*.

We know that students are unable to reach their full potential when they are hungry, and we know that food security is absolutely critical to their ability to complete their degree. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity among students on campuses across the Commonwealth and nation, including those at the 5-campus University of Massachusetts.

Each of our campus communities is fully committed to the well-being of our students. They have all implemented innovative anti-hunger initiatives, but we readily acknowledge that unmet need still exists. The Massachusetts hunger-free campus legislation would help close this gap through direct financial support for campus initiatives as well as the provision of technical expertise.

We are also aware and most appreciative of the \$3.7 million the Legislature has already allocated to the initiatives included in this legislation. These appropriations, combined with the provisions of H4697 and S2811, will help us all address food insecurity for the most vulnerable students across the Commonwealth. The return on this investment will be priceless -- healthy, successful students who will graduate and make valuable contributions to their communities and Commonwealth for decades to come.

We strongly urge the Legislature to pass H4697/S2811, *An Act establishing the Massachusetts Hunger Free Campus Initiative*. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

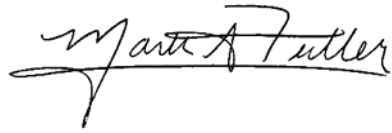
Sincerely,

Marty Meehan
President

Kumble Subbaswamy
Chancellor UMass Amherst



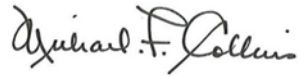
Marcell Suarez Orozco
Chancellor UMass Boston



Mark Fuller
Chancellor UMass Dartmouth



Jacquie Moloney
Chancellor UMass Lowell



Michael Collins
Chancellor UMass Chan Medical School