

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): Advocacy Request & Templates

<u>The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</u>, a lifeline for millions of lowincome individuals and families, is one of many federal safety net programs facing cuts that could have devastating effects on food security across the Merrimack Valley and beyond. Merrimack Valley Food Bank is calling on the public to contact their Federal Senators and Representatives to voice their opposition to these harmful cuts.

Below you will find templates with suggested language to use when advocating for SNAP via email or phone calls with your Federal Senators and Representatives. You can use our suggested messaging or customize it to reflect your own voice and experience. For help finding your Federal Senators and Representatives, you can <u>click here</u>.

<u>Email Templates</u>

To Federal Senators and Representatives:

To: Your Federal Senators and Representatives email address – we suggest a separate email to each.

Subject: Protect Food Security for Thousands in MA

Dear [Senator/Representative _____],

My name is **[your name]** and I am a resident of **[town or city name]**. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a lifeline for millions of low-income individuals and families. The cuts it faces as a part of the upcoming budget process would have devastating effects on food security across the country.

I am sending this in conjunction with the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, which is continuing to serve over 70,000 people every month through over 100 member agencies, including food pantries, residential programs, schools and soup kitchens. There are approximately 670,000 households in Massachusetts who receive SNAP benefits. Any proposed reductions to SNAP would place immense strain on a Massachusetts food assistance network already struggling to meet an increase in demand, leaving many without reliable access to nutritious food. Furthermore, local grocers, farmers, and other food suppliers will face significant losses.

Please urge your fellow members of the legislature to protect SNAP benefits from these harmful cuts. Any reduction in funding will exacerbate food insecurity, forcing more families to rely on emergency food aid that is already stretched to its limits. **[Optional: Add a sentence here about why SNAP matters to you personally, and to your community.]** Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.