

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, BENJAMIN WEBER, HENRY SANTANA, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, LOUIJEUNE AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL CUTS TO SNAP AND MEDICAID ON BOSTON RESIDENTS

- WHEREAS,** The recently enacted federal legislation known as the “Big Beautiful Bill” authorizes historic reductions to programs that provide essential support to low-income residents and families, including \$1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and large reductions in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP); *and*
- WHEREAS,** These cuts will increase economic inequality, exacerbate barriers to health care and nutrition, and disproportionately harm low-income and working class families, particularly residents of color and immigrants who already face systemic inequities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In Massachusetts, nearly 1 in 3 residents, almost 2 million people, rely on MassHealth, the State’s Medicaid program, for health coverage, including nearly half of all children and people with disabilities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Federal changes such as new work requirements, increased eligibility checks, and elimination of coverage for legally present immigrants will put an estimated 326,000 Massachusetts residents, nearly 5% of the Commonwealth’s population, at risk of losing health coverage, while also reducing federal health care funding to the state by an estimated \$3.5 billion annually; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These Medicaid Cuts will ripple throughout the health care system, increasing uncompensated care, straining emergency rooms, and jeopardizing hospital services, while the State’s Health Safety Net Fund already faces significant funding shortfalls; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Cuts to SNAP will further worsen food insecurity and poverty by imposing harsh time limits and work requirements, eliminating eligibility for all legally present immigrants, and requiring states to shoulder a greater share of benefit costs; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Massachusetts will immediately need to provide an additional \$53 million per year to administer SNAP, and up to \$660 million by October 2027, likely forcing the state to make cuts to other essential programs; *and*

WHEREAS, 1 in 6 Massachusetts residents relies on SNAP to put food on the table, and the program brings in \$2.6 billion federal nutrition dollars to the Commonwealth, supporting families, retailers, and local farmers; *and*

WHEREAS, These federal actions will not only impact thousands of Boston residents' ability to access food and health care, but will also have broader consequences for Boston's economy, health care professionals, institutions, and community organizations; *and*

WHEREAS, While many provisions of the Big Beautiful Bill will not take effect until after 2026, the legislation creates significant administrative barriers, threatening thousands of residents to lose coverage simply for failing to complete paperwork requirements; *and*

WHEREAS, The City and the Commonwealth have crucial roles to play in advocating for Massachusetts residents to maintain quality of care and quality of life, and can prevent unnecessary loss of coverage by working with community organizations, health care providers, and consumer advocates to help residents navigate these barriers and maintain access to essential services; *and*

WHEREAS, It is imperative that Boston act now to understand the potential impacts, prepare mitigation strategies, and help shape the state's response as it faces difficult decisions about how to replace billions of dollars in lost federal funding; *and*

WHEREAS, All Boston residents have a right to receive health care and put food on the table, and the City is committed to being an equitable city where every family has a fair shot at success; *and*

WHEREAS, This legislation threatens to undermine those values by targeting low-income families, communities of color, and working class residents, Boston must stand strong and advocate for its residents; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the impact of federal cuts to Medicaid and SNAP on Boston residents, and to explore how the City can advocate for residents and work with state officials, health care providers, and community organizations to mitigate harm from this legislation. Representatives from the City of Boston, MassHealth, the Department of Transitional Assistance, Boston Public Health Commission, health care providers, food security advocates, and community organizations should be invited to testify.

Filed on: August 4, 2025