



THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

April 15, 2020

Delivered via email

Dear Governor Baker,

We want to express our appreciation to you for the executive orders and actions that you have initiated and taken as part of the Commonwealth's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This letter concerns continued support for your efforts to ensure the availability of safe grocery store operations during the COVID-19 emergency for workers and consumers.

We believe this past week's Executive Order issued on April 7, by establishing occupancy limits for grocery stores to 40 percent of their maximum permitted occupancy and allowing grocery store workers to receive automatic testing at first responder testing sites, represented appropriate measures to reduce possible exposures inside the stores for both workers and customers. We also appreciate your efforts to request permission from USDA to participate in the online EBT purchasing pilot to allow SNAP recipients to use their benefits for delivery of participating grocers, allowing our lowest income residents to join other customers to avoid stores completely. We urge the Administration to request this waiver at the earliest date possible and explore whether additional retailers beyond WalMart and Amazon can participate.

We want to express our support for an additional action to restrict traffic in stores and further protect the public health of grocery store workers and customers. Specifically, we encourage you to order the (outdoor) curbside pick-up and payment for food for grocery stores that offer online ordering and delivery and encourage other grocers offer this service. We believe customer preordering (online, fax or phone) with curbside payment and pickup ought to be offered and encouraged. This would be open to all customers, including those with EBT cards. For SNAP households, grocers would be able to use EBT mobile devices (which many retailers have, and all farmers markets have) or have mobile cash registers available in the pickup area to accept payments for pre-ordered food. Large retailers, such a Walmart, offer this service in Massachusetts and some small stores are already shifting to this model. Curbside "click and collect" is already an option EBT retailers can take independent of the EBT online purchasing pilot, as confirmed in multiple communications from USDA.

Curbside payment would benefit all households (those with and without EBT cards), especially as it becomes more difficult for stores to offer delivery services, to participate equally with other customers in a safe manner to procure groceries without the need to enter the store. We believe such an order would be consistent with the goals of your recent Executive Orders as it would

further limit customer traffic in grocery stores and reduce possible exposures inside grocery stores, while still ensuring access to essential groceries.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

JAY LIVINGSTONE
State Representative
8th Suffolk District

MINDY DOMB
State Representative
3rd Hampshire District

TOMMY VITOLO
State Representative
15th Norfolk District

NATALIE HIGGINS
State Representative
4th Worcester District

JOANNE COMERFORD
State Senator
Hampshire, Franklin, and
Worcester

MARIA ROBINSON
State Representative
6th Middlesex District

NIKA ELUGARDO
State Representative
15th Suffolk District

LINDSAY SABADOSA
State Representative
1st Hampshire District

DAVE ROGERS
State Representative
24th Middlesex District

DYLAN FERNANDES
State Representative
Barnstable, Dukes and
Nantucket

MICHELLE CICCOLO
State Representative
15th Middlesex District

CHRISTINE BARBER
State Representative
34th Middlesex District

NICK COLLINS
State Senator
1st Suffolk District

CHRISTINA MINICUCCI
State Representative
14th Essex District

KEVIN HONAN
State Representative
17th Suffolk District

ADRIAN MADARO
State Representative
1st Suffolk District

LORI EHRLICH
State Representative
8th Essex District

JOAN MESCHINO
State Representative
3rd Plymouth District

STEPHAN HAY
State Representative
3rd Worcester District

TRICIA FARLEY-BOUVIER
State Representative
3rd Berkshire District

AARON VEGA
State Representative
5th Hampden District

JIM HAWKINS
State Representative
2nd Bristol District

KAY KHAN
State Representative
11th Middlesex District

JACK LEWIS
State Representative
7th Middlesex District

PAUL MARK
State Representative
2nd Berkshire District

DENISE PROVOST
State Representative
27th Middlesex District

NATALIE BLAIS
State Representative
1st Franklin District

ERIC LESSER

*State Senator
1st Hampden and Hampshire*

RUTH BALSER

*State Representative
12th Middlesex District*

MARCOS DEVERS

*State Representative
16th Essex District*

TACKEY CHAN

*State Representative
2nd Norfolk District*

DAVID LEBOEUF

*State Representative
17th Worcester District*

TAMI GOUVEIA

*State Representative
14th Middlesex District*

MARY KEEFE

*State Representative
15th Worcester District*

BRIAN ASHE

*State Representative
2nd Hampden District*

BRENDAN CRIGHTON

*State Senator
3rd Essex*

REBECCA RAUSH

*State Senator
Norfolk Bristol and
Middlesex*

JON SANTIAGO

*State Representative
9th Suffolk District*

SUSANNAH WHIPPS

*State Representative
2nd Franklin District*

PETER CAPANO

*State Representative
11th Essex District*

ANTONIO CABRAL

*State Representative
13th Bristol District*

SAL DIDOMENICO

*State Senator
Middlesex and Suffolk*