

Just Budget and Tax Coalition

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Ms. Amy Carnavale, Chair

Massachusetts Republican Party

July 11, 20225

85 Merrimac Street

BY HAND

Boston, MA

Dear Ms. Carnavale:

On behalf of Massachusetts residents, we write to urge the Massachusetts Republican Party to repudiate publicly the reckless actions of your party's leaders in Washington.

Many of us here today are low income seniors, families and individuals who rely on HUD rental subsidies to keep a roof over our heads. We are alarmed by the Trump Administration's extremist proposal, in its FY 2026 Appropriations request, to *terminate* all Project and Tenant Based Section 8 and Public Housing rental subsidy programs, to be replaced with a State Block Grant with 43% less funding, and a two year time limit on rental assistance for working families. ***This dangerous proposal is currently before the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, scheduled for mark-up on July 14, 2025.*** If adopted, this proposal would threaten 10 million extremely low income people with homelessness and displacement, as soon as October 2025.

In Massachusetts alone, 363,000 people in 195,000 low income households would be affected. Unless the State *immediately* committed billions in new subsidies, a 43% funding cut would force owners and housing authorities to raise rents to 60% of income and/or terminate tens of thousands of low income seniors, disabled people and families, left to fend for themselves in the State's overheated rental market.

Further, abruptly ending Project Based Rental Assistance for 60,400 privately-owned, HUD subsidized apartments, will severely disrupt the Massachusetts housing development industry, force owners into bankruptcy, and endanger affordable housing lenders. Private landlords who rely on 89,000 Section 8 Vouchers for steady revenue will likewise face chaos and disruption. Massachusetts' affordable housing crisis will explode.

We urge you to contact THUD Subcommittee and Appropriations Committee leaders before July 14 to urge rejection of these irresponsible proposals.

The Administration's FY 2026 discretionary budget request, also includes deep cuts of 54% for the Environmental Protection Agency, 43% to the National Institutes for Health 57% to the National Science Foundation, jeopardizing our health and safety. Further, the Administration has illegally withheld and/or impounded more than \$400 billion previously appropriated by Congress, including recent cuts for Massachusetts Public Schools,

scientific research, and vital transportation projects that harm our state. These cuts reinforce the destructive attacks on federal workers engineered by Elon Musk's DOGE, which have decimated staff at HUD, EPA, Department of Education, the National Weather Service (NWS), and health and science agencies overall. The horrific floods in Central Texas are only the first of many preventable catastrophes that will be caused by the reckless forced layoffs of critical disaster coordinators at the NWS alone.

Congress must end these devastating cuts to essential federal workers and fully fund these vital programs, which are a key foundation for the Massachusetts economy. We urge you to convey the State GOP's opposition to non-defense discretionary cuts, recissions and illegal impoundments, as well.

Non-Defense spending cuts are designed not only to help fund tax cuts for the rich, but to also augment the July 4 mandatory spending bill, by pushing the bloated Defense Department budget over \$1 trillion for the first time, and increasing by 65% funds for privatized concentration camps and the masked, un-uniformed ICE Gestapo agents who are terrorizing our communities. These appropriation increases should likewise be rejected.

Of course, Non-Defense discretionary spending cuts are *in addition* to the devastating mandatory spending cuts to low income and working families signed into law on July 4 by President Trump, in order to pay for extended tax cuts to millionaires and billionaires. Despite \$1.1 trillion in cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, and Healthcare, these tax cuts will add trillions to the federal deficit, triggering a \$500 billion sequester cut to Medicare. In Massachusetts, the cuts to Medicaid, Healthcare, and SNAP alone, will cost the State \$45 billion over the next decade according to Manatt Health at Princeton University, putting intolerable pressure on the State budget. Overall, these changes will result in the greatest transfer of wealth from poor and working people to the ultra-rich in US history.

In short, we urge the Massachusetts GOP to protect our people and state by repudiating these unconscionable cuts in the immediate future. We eagerly await your response.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Just Budget and Tax Coalition Members