



# Close the Snap Gap

SB 612 and HB 101

*An Act Improving Public Health through a Common Application for Core Food, Health, and Safety-Net Programs*

Sponsored by Senator DiDomenico and Representative Livingstone

**Rosie's Place asks our legislators to support SB 612/HB 101 to create a common application portal to allow low-income households to apply for Masshealth and SNAP at the same time.**

## **What is SNAP?**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (also known as food stamps) is a federally - funded program that provides monthly benefits to low-income families in Massachusetts to help them buy food. 760,000 people in Massachusetts currently receive SNAP.

## **What is MassHealth?**

MassHealth is a health insurance program for low- and middle-income Massachusetts residents. MassHealth covers 1.9 million people—more than one in four people.

## **What is the SNAP Gap?**

The SNAP Gap refers to the 680,000 people in Massachusetts who receive MassHealth but do not receive SNAP, even though they are likely eligible.

## **How would a common application portal help to close the gap?**

MassHealth and SNAP have separate application processes that ask for the same basic information—which creates more work for both the state and for clients. With a common application portal, low-income households could apply for MassHealth and SNAP at the same time, helping state government work more efficiently.

## **What are the benefits of closing the gap?**

Closing the gap will help more low-income residents meet their basic needs and lower healthcare costs. Expanding access to 100% federally funded nutrition dollars will generate \$1.5 billion in economic stimulus to the state and local economy. Creating a common application portal could also reduce administrative costs due to churn.

## **What is churn?**

Churn is a term used to describe what occurs when a recipient's public benefits are terminated, only to be reinstated after eligibility has once again been demonstrated. According to a USDA 2014 report, the average certification costs associated with churn are approximately \$80 for each instance of churn that requires a full re-application.