



August 15, 2013

The Honorable Deval Patrick
Governor of Massachusetts
State House Room 380
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

I am writing you today on behalf of the four food banks in the Commonwealth to humbly request your support by declaring the month of September "Hunger Action Month" for the third year. The issuance of this proclamation will reinforce the commitment from your administration to end hunger in our great state. It would also generate important awareness for our food banks as we head into the difficult winter months when food donations are needed most.

This proclamation will not only support our local efforts in Massachusetts to raise much needed donations from our private funders and partners, but will also be part of a national movement to declare September Hunger Action Month in all 50 states.

There could not be a more important time to commit to doing everything we can to fight against hunger as many Massachusetts residents are still struggling in this economy. One in nine is food insecure, and about a third are children.

We appreciate your support of the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (DAR 2511-0105), which provides nutritious foods such as eggs, milk, meat and fresh produce to people in need. A Hunger Action Month proclamation would be a strong additional statement showing your commitment to hunger relief and would inspire our partners and volunteers who so generously make our work possible. For your convenience I have enclosed sample language for a proclamation for you and your staff to review.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal, Erin Caron will be following up with your office to discuss this further. If you wish to contact me I can be reached at Cdamato@GBFB.org or by phone at (617) 427-5200.

Sincerely,

Catherine D'Amato
President and CEO
The Greater Boston Food Bank

Cc:

- Andrew Morehouse, Executive Director, The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts
- Jean McMurray, Executive Director, Worcester County Food Bank
- Amy Pessia, Executive Director, Merrimack Valley Food Bank

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