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Media Contacts:

Suzanne Morse
(617) 646-1020

smorse@oneilandassoc.com

Cayenne Isaksen
(617) 646 1028

cisaksen@oneilandassoc.com

Statement by Georgia Katsoulomitis, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI), Regarding Proposed Budget by the Trump Administration

“It comes as no surprise that President Trump is proposing a budget that will have a devastating impact on poor people in Massachusetts and beyond. Draconian cuts to programs like SNAP, Medicaid, and CHIP represent the very essence of being ‘penny-wise but pound foolish’ since such programs promote public health and have a stimulative effect on the economy. We will pay later in higher health care costs and a struggling workforce for what we are unwilling to pay for today.

The federal budget proposes massive cuts to important social safety programs like SNAP, Medicaid and CHIP. In Massachusetts, there are more than 1.8 million people enrolled in MassHealth – of those enrolled, more than 600,000 are children. Almost 100,000 of those children are enrolled in the CHIP program. If there is a SNAP cut of 20 percent, Massachusetts could potentially lose up to \$240 million in annual federal nutrition funding, with 150,000 fewer individuals able to access SNAP. In the Commonwealth, more than 760,000 individuals utilize SNAP, the vast majority of which are children (276,000), seniors (148,000), or persons with disabilities (270,000).

The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute is committed to working with our elected leaders, community advocates and all of our partners to protect these benefits and to limit the damage to the Commonwealth that will result from this destructive proposed budget. MLRI will join with state and local officials to ensure that poor children and families have access to essential public programs that will ensure that they are able to eat and receive the health care treatment they need.”

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About the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)

The Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) is a statewide nonprofit poverty law and policy center. Its mission is to advance economic, racial and social justice through legal action, policy advocacy, coalition building, and community outreach. MLRI specializes in large-scale legal initiatives and systemic reforms that address the root causes of poverty, remove barriers to opportunity, and create a path to economic stability and mobility for low-income individuals, families and communities.

For more information about MLRI, visit their [website](#).