



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Transitional Assistance
600 Washington Street • Boston MA 02111

DEVAL L. PATRICK
Governor

JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.
Secretary

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
Lieutenant Governor

JULIA E. KEHOE
Commissioner

July 28, 2010

Mary Ann Ferris, Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
10 Causeway Street, Room 501
Boston, MA 02222-1069

Re: Commonwealth of Massachusetts ABAWD Waiver Notice

Dear Ms. Ferris:

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f) (2), a state can qualify for a 12-month statewide ABAWD waiver if the Department of Labor's (DOL) Unemployment Insurance Service determines it meets the criteria for extended unemployment benefits. The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) can approve a waiver if the state's unemployment triggers the criteria for extended benefits, regardless of whether the State has elected the option to offer extended benefits. The DOL Trigger Notice 2010-2, effective January 24, 2010, indicates that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts met the extended criteria.

I am writing to notify you that the Commonwealth is planning on implementing a statewide Waiver of the Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) Work Requirement Regulations for individuals residing in Massachusetts as a result of the Trigger Notice 2010-2. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will continue to suspend the time limits on ABAWDs from October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

Thank you for your consideration and support in this matter. I greatly appreciate your past and continued support in providing us with guidance and understanding in our efforts to provide nutritional services to residents of the Commonwealth.

Please contact me should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phuoc X. Cao".

Phuoc Cao
Director, SNAP

cc. Christopher Nasados
Stephanie Brown
Maria Pimentel