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Executive Director

September 25, 2008

Governor Deval Patrick
Massachusetts State House
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Patrick:

Nonprofit organizations now represent the largest sector of the Massachusetts economy with nearly 14% of all jobs in the Commonwealth. This number is larger than financial services, manufacturing and other sectors. To fix our state's economic problems by cutting its major source of jobs is not wise, particularly when one considers three key facts: (1) these jobs won't relocate out of state; (2) these jobs deliver services that are not "optional" especially in tough economic times when more and more citizens of the Commonwealth will turn to us for help and (3) we're by far the leading employers in neighborhoods and gateway communities that can ill afford to have major job losses on the heels of a foreclosure crisis.

We know that Massachusetts is facing some tough times. Although our state economy seems to be more resistant to the economic downturn than other states, the reality is that it will be impossible to avoid the effects of the poor management of the economy nationally, and it appears that our state budget is in trouble. In reaction to this, one thing that the state should not do is balance the budget on the backs of the communities served by nonprofit organizations.

Nonprofits are already reeling from the meltdown in private philanthropy that is coming with the collapse of financial services. "9c" cuts to nonprofits, coupled with the private philanthropy decline, could seriously destabilize the state's leading employer, to say nothing of the consequences of eliminating essential services at a time when our residents will need those services more than ever.

We went through this "perfect storm" in 2001-03 under less enlightened leadership in the State House. We would like to believe that we can learn from the mistakes made seven years ago and not exacerbate an already dire economic forecast for our communities. We are looking to you for that leadership, and we are willing and eager to work alongside you as well as leaders from other sectors affected by this crisis

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to find viable solutions that protects our economy and our communities. If at the Federal level we can find a way to provide \$700 billion to bail out Wall Street, surely we can find a way at the State level to save nonprofits on our Main Streets.

Sincerely,

Massachusetts Nonprofit Network Board of Directors

Bill Walczak, President MNN, Codman Square Health Center, Dorchester
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* Organization name is for identification purposes only