



March 25, 2020

Dear Elected Official:

As Massachusetts continues its efforts to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vitally important to remember the health of our state's taxpayer and employer community. We understand the measures taken are essential to limiting the impact of this outbreak and protecting our state's most vulnerable.

We feel there are some possible steps we can take that will help Massachusetts taxpayers and small businesses weather this crisis and ease people's lives as they deal with the changes that have come with implementation of social distancing policies. These policies will signal to the taxpayers, small business owners, and workers that our state leaders understand the predicament many people now face as we navigate these unprecedented times.

1. Temporarily suspend the meals tax for the foreseeable future to encourage patronage at local restaurants that have been forced to suspend in-facility dining.
2. Extend the state tax filing deadline to mirror the federal extension. This will allow a much-needed grace period for those who have been impacted by this crisis and owe money.
3. Temporarily suspend the sales tax on ecommerce purchases to promote social distancing and ensure families can get the goods they need without having to leave their homes.

We believe these measures would go a long way towards helping our small businesses and families during this crisis. We hope you will seriously consider them.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Laurie Belsito". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laurie Belsito  
Legislative Director