

MAKE HUNGER HISTORY.

The Make Hunger History Coalition represents over 200 organizations and over 750 individual members. Together, we imagine a Massachusetts where no family goes hungry, where every child has access to nourishing food, and where hunger is a thing of the past. This vision is within our reach, and Massachusetts is poised to lead the nation in ending food insecurity once and for all.

We believe our State Legislature plays a key role. As such, we solicited all who were not unopposed to answer the following questions.

Name:	Ryan O'Malley
Party:	Democratic
District:	5th Middlesex
Position Sought:	State Senator
Website:	omalleyssenate.com

What is your connection to or experience with hunger, food security, federal nutrition programs, or the food system, if any?

Candidate Answer: Food assistance is essential to ensure that children, families, and those in need get the nutrition needed to thrive at school, work, and life. There have been times in my life when I worked paycheck to paycheck and had to worry about affording necessities.

In law school, I worked at a civil litigation clinic to advance housing justice. In the role, I helped ensure that clients got access to services that could help them stay in their homes. This included helping clients sign up for SNAP, Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), rental assistance, and fuel assistance.

What do you believe is the role of the state government in ensuring everyone in our state has enough to eat and reducing the demand for emergency food resources?

Candidate Answer: Society as a whole benefits when children, families, seniors, and those struggling to afford food have their basic food needs met. Along with sufficient sleep, regular and nutritious meals are one of the keys to a balanced lifestyle. That is why I believe the Commonwealth should be involved in helping feed hungry residents and building affordable housing. In Malden, the

Commonwealth, the City of Malden, and private donors helped the Bread of Life build a new facility where people can eat and live in dignity. As a State Senator, I would help support organizations like the Bread of Life to help strengthen the fabric of our communities.

What should the Commonwealth do to ensure robust access to effective anti-hunger programs such as SNAP?

Candidate Answer: SNAP access and enrollment could be done when students are enrolled in school. Representatives could tabled at senior centers and community events to help increase access and meet people where they are.

As a member of the Massachusetts legislature, would you advocate for state funds to hire the staff necessary to ensure every eligible low-income resident successfully accesses federally-funded nutrition benefits?

Candidate Answer: Yes.

While hunger is a statewide issue that impacts a variety of demographics, certain populations experience it at disproportionately higher rates. For example, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, immigrants, members of LGBTQ+ community, and people with disabilities experience hunger at disproportionately higher rates.

What do you believe are the primary factors driving these disparities, and what can government do to reduce them?

Candidate Answer: Marginalization and the history of discrimination are the driving factors behind these disparities. Funding concrete steps to reduce marginalization and continued discrimination are essential to reducing these gaps.

What else would you like to share about your plans to address food insecurity and its root causes?

Candidate Answer: *I would advocate for the use of state economic developed funds to eliminate food deserts and to encourage more options for markets and healthy food options.*