

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 1, 2025

Frans Muller  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ahold Delhaize USA  
1385 Hancock Street  
Quincy, MA 02169

Dear Mr. Muller,

We write to seek an update on Stop & Shop's progress on its promises to lower grocery prices for Massachusetts residents.

On September 30, 2024, we wrote to Ahold Delhaize, (the parent company of Stop & Shop), following reports that the grocery chain was charging higher prices at an urban location in Boston, Massachusetts than at a suburban store location.<sup>1</sup> According to a report produced by a group of Boston youth volunteers at the Hyde Square Task Force in June 2023, which compared the prices of 17 identical, staple food items at two store locations, "Stop & Shop [was] charging 18% more for groceries in a largely minority and working-class area of Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood, compared to the Stop & Shop in Dedham, a more affluent suburb."<sup>2</sup> In the fall of 2023, the Hyde Square Task Force produced a second study that analyzed prices at other Boston Stop & Shop locations like Grove Hall, South Bay, and Mission Hill, and found comparable price differences to Dedham.<sup>3</sup> These types of price discrepancies place significant burdens on already-struggling consumers.

In response to our letter, on December 13, 2024, Stop & Shop said it had "launched a multi-year strategy to invest in pricing and lower everyday prices across all our stores," including in each store in Western Massachusetts and "select locations in the Boston market," including the Jamaica Plain location.<sup>4</sup> This month, the Hyde Square Task Force returned to the Stop & Shop locations it visited in its early study to determine whether grocery prices had indeed been

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congressman McGovern and Congresswoman Pressley to Ahold Delhaize, September 30, 2024, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_to\\_ahold\\_delhaize\\_repricegouginginstopshopsinmassachusetts.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_ahold_delhaize_repricegouginginstopshopsinmassachusetts.pdf); Boston Globe, "Teens investigating equity find Stop & Shop charges more in Jackson Square than at a more affluent suburb," Tiana Woodard, June 5, 2023, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/06/05/metro/were-being-ripped-off-teens-investigating-equity-find-stop-shop-charges-more-jackson-square-than-more-affluent-suburb/>.

<sup>2</sup> GBH, "Youth investigators speak out about Stop & Shop price disparities," Diego Lopez and Judie Yuill, June 12, 2023, <https://www.wgbh.org/news/local/2023-06-12/youth-investigators-speak-out-about-stop-shop-price-disparities>.

<sup>3</sup> Boston Globe, "Teens call on Stop & Shop to use consumer data profits to erase price inequities at stores," Tiana Woodard, February 22, 2024, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2024/02/21/metro/hyde-square-youth-stop-and-shop-pricing/>; see also: Appendix A.

<sup>4</sup> Letter from Stop & Shop to Senator Warren, December 13, 2024, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/response\\_to\\_senator\\_warren\\_from\\_stop\\_and\\_shop\\_121324.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/response_to_senator_warren_from_stop_and_shop_121324.pdf).

lowered for consumers in Boston, Massachusetts. They shared the findings of their April 2025 investigation with our offices, which suggest that despite lowering grocery prices in the Jamaica Plain location, Stop & Shop is still charging higher prices at the other inner Boston locations, suggesting that Stop & Shop continues to profit at the expense of lower-income communities in Massachusetts by charging them higher prices for groceries.

The Hyde Square Task Force's April 2025 review reveals that, in response to our September 2024 letter,<sup>5</sup> Stop & Shop fulfilled its promise to lower prices at the Jamaica Plain location: the 18 staple grocery items were either precisely or approximately the same price at the Jamaica Plain and Dedham location.<sup>6</sup> However, as of April 2025, nearly all of the 18 grocery items appeared to still be more expensive at the Grove Hall, South Bay, and Mission Hill locations compared to the suburban Dedham location.<sup>7</sup> For example, Stouffer's Swedish meatballs cost a whole dollar more—\$4.99 compared to \$3.99—in each of these inner-city locations compared to the Dedham location.<sup>8</sup> Freschetta Pepperoni Pizza cost two dollars more—\$8.99 compared to \$6.99.<sup>9</sup> And one pound of Black Label Hormel Bacon was \$8.49 at the Boston locations compared to \$7.99 at the Dedham location.<sup>10</sup>

While we are glad that Stop & Shop reduced prices at the Jamaica Plain location in response to our September 2024 letter,<sup>11</sup> overall, these results are disappointing, revealing that Stop & Shop is still not providing fair and low prices in all communities in the Commonwealth. We urge Stop & Shop to lower prices at its grocery stores in Grove Hall, South Bay, and Mission Hill, and ensure that it is charging all Massachusetts families fair prices for the food they work hard to put on the table.

With this in mind, we request the following information by May 14, 2025:

1. Why does Stop & Shop still appear to be charging higher prices for groceries in low-income communities in Massachusetts?
2. In response to our September 30, 2024 letter, Stop & Shop said that it had “launched a multi-year strategy to invest in pricing and lower everyday prices across all our stores,” including in each store in Western Massachusetts and “select locations in the Boston market,” including the Jamaica Plain location.<sup>12</sup>
  - a. Please provide a summary of how this project has worked so far.

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<sup>5</sup> Letter from Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congressman McGovern and Congresswoman Pressley to Ahold Delhaize, September 30, 2024, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_to\\_ahold\\_delhaize\\_repricegouginginstopshopsinmassachusetts.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_ahold_delhaize_repricegouginginstopshopsinmassachusetts.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> See: Appendix B.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Letter from Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congressman McGovern and Congresswoman Pressley to Ahold Delhaize, September 30, 2024, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter\\_to\\_ahold\\_delhaize\\_repricegouginginstopshopsinmassachusetts.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/letter_to_ahold_delhaize_repricegouginginstopshopsinmassachusetts.pdf).

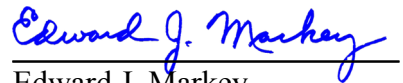
<sup>12</sup> Letter from Stop & Shop to Senator Warren, December 13, 2024, [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/response\\_to\\_senator\\_warren\\_from\\_stop\\_and\\_shop\\_121324.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/response_to_senator_warren_from_stop_and_shop_121324.pdf).

- b. How did Stop & Shop select the Massachusetts store locations would be included in this strategy? Please list all of the Massachusetts store locations that were selected to be included in the price reductions.
  - c. Specifically, which “select locations” in the Boston market were included in this strategy? Please list each store location.
  - d. Were the Grove Hall, South Bay, and Mission Hill locations included in this strategy? If not, why not?
3. Please provide, for the 18 items included in the Hyde Square Task Force’s study, the five highest and five lowest prices that they are currently being sold for in Massachusetts Stop & Shop locations and provide the locations of each group of five.
4. Since our September 30, 2024 letter, Stop & Shop appears to have closed seven store locations in Massachusetts. What impact, if any, has this had on Stop & Shop’s pricing decisions?
  - a. Why did Stop & Shop decide to close these stores?

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

## Appendix A. Stop and Shop Price Comparisons by Neighborhood: August 2023

Item	Dedham	Jackson Sq./JP	Grove Hall/Rox.	South Bay/Dot.	Mission Hill/Rox.
Hungry-man dinner	3.99	4.99	4.99	4.99	4.99
S&S crinkle fries	3.99	4.89	4.89	4.89	4.89
Stouffer's Swedish meatballs	3.99	4.99	4.99	4.99	4.99
Smart Ones 6.49 oz. frozen dinner	2.69	3.29	3.29	3.29	3.29
Bubba Turkey Burg.	10.99	11.99	11.79	11.99	11.99
Bubba Beef Burgers	13.99	17.99	17.99	17.99	17.99
Freschetta Br. Oven Pep. Pizza 22.7 oz.	6.99	8.99	8.99	8.99	8.99
Quart of Brigham's Ice Cream	4.99	5.99	5.99	5.99	5.99
S&S frozen pep. pizza 28.3 oz.	5.29	6.99	6.99	6.99	6.99
Elio's pizza	3.99	4.79	4.39	4.79	4.79
Krusteaz Gluten-free cornbread	4.69	5.49	5.49	5.49	5.49
Black Label Hormel Bacon 1 lb.	7.99	11.29	9.49	11.29	11.29
Hillshire Farm smoked ham 9 oz.	5.99	6.79	6.79	6.79	6.79
Nathan's Beef skinless hotdogs (8)	5.99	6.99	6.99	6.99	6.99
Neosporin .5 oz.	7.39	7.69	7.69	7.69	7.69
Noosa Yogurt	2.49	2.69	2.79	2.69	2.69
Tyson Buf. Crispy chicken strips 25 oz.	9.99	12.99	12.99	12.99	12.99
Oscar Mayer mesquite turkey breast 9oz.	6.49	8.49	8.49	8.49	8.49

*Source: Hyde Square Task Force*

## Appendix B. Stop and Shop Price Comparisons by Neighborhood: April 2025

Item	Dedham	Jackson Sq./JP	Grove Hall/Rox.	South Bay/Dot.	Mission Hill/Rox.
Hungry-man dinner	3.99	3.99	4.99	4.99	4.99
S&S crinkle fries	3.49	3.49	3.99	3.99	3.99
Stouffer's Swedish meatballs	3.99	3.99	4.99	4.99	4.99
Smart Ones 6.49 oz. frozen dinner	2.89	2.89	3.29	3.29	3.29
Bubba Turkey Burg.	11.49	11.29	11.99	11.99	11.99
Bubba Beef Burgers	16.99	16.49	16.99	16.99	16.99
Freschetta Br. Oven Pep. Pizza 22.7 oz.	6.99	6.99	8.99	8.99	8.99
Quart of Brigham's Ice Cream	4.99	4.99	5.99	5.99	5.99
S&S frozen pep. pizza 28.3 oz.	5.49	5.49	6.49	6.49	6.49
Elio's pizza	3.99	3.99	4.39	4.39	4.39
Krusteaz Gluten-free cornbread	5.29	5.29	5.99	5.99	5.99
Black Label Hormel Bacon 1 lb.	7.99	7.99	8.49	8.49	8.49
Hillshire Farm smoked ham 9 oz.	5.79	5.79	5.99	5.99	5.99
Nathan's Beef skinless hotdogs (8)	6.49	6.49	6.99	6.99	6.99
Neosporin .5 oz.	7.99	7.99	7.99	7.99	7.99
Noosa Yogurt	2.49	2.49	2.79	2.79	2.79
Tyson Buf. Crispy chicken strips 25 oz.	10.29	10.29	10.99	10.99	10.99
Oscar Mayer mesquite turkey breast 9oz.	6.49	6.49	6.99	6.99	6.99

*Source: Hyde Square Task Force*