

PARTNERING TO END HUNGER



Good Shepherd

FOOD BANK OF MAINE

December 21, 2022

Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine testimony to the Committee On Appropriations and Financial Affairs in support of LD 3, An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program sponsored by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross of Portland

To Senate President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

My name is Amy Regan Gallant and I am the Vice President of Public Policy & Research for Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine. I am here today to express our support, and ask for your support, of LD 3, An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program.

The mission of Good Shepherd Food Bank is to eliminate hunger in Maine by improving access to nutritious food for people in need, building strong community partnerships, and mobilizing the public in the fight to end hunger. Good Shepherd Food Bank works in partnership with nearly 600 organizations to help distribute food to community members in need. Our network of partner agencies includes food pantries, meal sites, senior centers, school programs, and healthcare facilities. In our work centering equity, we are increasingly working with communities of color to address food security in a culturally responsive way.

We believe there is a solution to the problem of hunger in Maine. Working in partnership with the state legislature we can and will help reduce the impact of hunger in our state and make Maine a stronger, better place to work and live.

Good Shepherd Food Bank strongly urges prompt and meaningful support to help Mainers keep and heat their homes this winter. With record-high inflation impacting people's basic needs – housing, food, and energy – too many Mainers are being forced to choose between these critical resources on a daily basis. Too often this means neighbors are skipping meals or being forced to choose less healthier food options to make ends meet. No one should have to choose between a meal on the table or a roof over their heads. Our network of pantry partners have been hearing concerns from neighbors accessing their services about having to choose between food and fuel, and LD3 will provide some relief to these individuals.

Please vote in favor of LD3. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony today.

Sincerely,

Amy Regan Gallant

Good Shepherd Food Bank, Vice President of Public Policy & Research

[agallant@gsfb.org](mailto:agallant@gsfb.org)

PO Box 1807 • 3121 Hotel Road • Auburn, ME 04211 • Tel: 207-782-3554 • Fax: 207-782-9893 • [feedingmaine.org](http://feedingmaine.org)

