Catherine Kinney South Portland LD 2093

I support this bill as I see many peers using SNAP/EBT at Farmers Markets and at the Portland Food Co-op. Everyone should have the right to access delicious food and ingredients as well as support our local economy by purchasing from local farms. The local farms are what make Portland unique from many other cities and we should enable people to support then. With a housing crisis and a less stable economy, we should plan to make this benefit permanent so that people can have a higher quality of life in Maine. Maine has the highest rates of hunger in New England with approximately 10% of households experiencing food insecurity. We also house many refugees and for African immigrant families, the number of households experiencing food insecurity is more than 50%. This bill provides stable funding for nutrition incentives. It makes fresh, local food at farmers' markets affordable for more people and supplements more than 10,000 households' grocery budgets with healthy, Maine-grown food. For these reasons, I support this bill.