

Allison Perkins  
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LD 1877

Good Afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Allison Perkins, I live in Cornville and have worked in Public Service for 15 years, 8 years for the State of Maine Department of Health and Human Services as an Eligibility Specialist for TANF, MaineCare (Medicaid), and Food Supplement (SNAP). I assisted thousands of families during that time and one thing I can say with certainty is that the TANF program has helped families rise from a fiscal position of Below Zero to the Working Middle Class--and beyond. What we haven't seen is a substantive enough investment to the TANF program in recent years to even approach the cost of living. Parents who are working to improve in situational poverty NEED supports like Child Care, Transportation, and access to healthcare, mental health, and dental health services to thrive for themselves, their families and their communities. Somerset County continues to struggle, like many other counties, in the ability to offer these basic services—and are becoming further and further out of reach for our lowest income families. I urge you to support LD.1877, in investing in our neighbors who need these temporary services to land on their feet and thrive. Thank you for your time and service to our State.