

Adrienne Horne
Appleton
LD 209

Testimony on Part S of Supplemental Budget, LD 209 "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025"

To: Co-Chairs Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Adrienne Horne

January 23, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Rotundo and Representative Gattine, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Adrienne Horne and I am a resident of Appleton, Maine. I am writing to testify in opposition to LD 209 Part S of the Supplemental Budget.

As someone who has experienced being unexpectedly laid off from my job, I personally understand how General Assistance (GA) as well as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) can be life-saving. After getting laid off, it takes time to find a new job, and without support it can be a challenge to keep paying for the essentials like rent and food during that time. If Part S of the Supplemental Budget passes as proposed, many people will lose these critical support systems and end up unhoused. I oppose these proposed limits on qualifications for GA, SNAP, and TANF. I also oppose the proposed restrictions on housing assistance through GA and the proposal to raise sales taxes. These three proposals would disproportionately have negative impacts on the most low-income people in our state. This is unacceptable and there are better choices that would share the burden of the budget increases with people who are not struggling with unemployment and making ends meet.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you will reconsider these cuts and restrictions to GA.

Sincerely,
Adrienne Horne