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I have been a teacher for five years and I have witnessed multiple teachers leave the profession for higher pay and in search of a less stressful and demanding career. I believe that teachers should be paid more in order to compensate for the stress that the job causes, and to attract and retain more teachers. I have a master's degree in Education because I want to help improve the lives of as many people as possible, and strengthen the Maine community. I currently work a second job every Sunday and pick up as many shifts as possible during my school vacations in order to pay for my basic expenses. If I were paid more as a teacher, then I wouldn't have to work a second job, and I would have more time to spend with my children, family and strengthen the community. Teachers do so much everyday to strengthen, protect and serve the Maine community, our state should show how much they appreciate their teachers by increasing their pay.