

Joe Perry  
Bangor  
LD 776

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and members of the Education and Cultural Affairs committee. My name is Joe Perry and I am from Bangor. I am here today to testify in support of LD 776. My testimony is on behalf of myself and not the Office of the State Treasurer.

This past summer at my 40th high school reunion one of my classmates told me, in her experience, the free lunch program of the State of Maine was not applying to students in some special purpose schools. In my research, I have found this program to be very confusing. A mix of three federal guidelines and four State of Maine guidelines, as near as I can tell, for how our schools will be reimbursed. Two of the state of Maine guidelines appeared to have no schools using them at the moment. I am really having a hard time trying to figure out where the problem and the solution lies.

It was my intention to sponsor this bill myself until I was elected treasurer. The representative from Brewer, Representative O'Halloran agreed to take on this bill on behalf of my constituent. The Revisor's office has drafted the piece of legislation you have in front of you today as an effort to address this issue. I am in hopes at this public hearing, the testimony the committee gets today can bring us closer to a solution that ensures every family in Maine receive the free school meals that I believe the legislature intended.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.  
Sincerely,  
Joe Perry