

April 31, 2025

100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Testimony Not For Nor Against LD 938 An Act to Implement Certain Local Spending and Sourcing Requirements Regarding the Statewide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Dear Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

My name is David, I live in Portland and I am a person with a disability. I am also a member of Speaking Up for Us. I am here today to provide testimony on LD 938. I am not for nor against this bill, but I want to share my experience and thoughts on the topic.

I used to receive SNAP benefits, but my benefits were reduced to only \$10 a month. Because of this, I decided that SNAP benefits were no longer worth the effort for me. I feel that the program should focus on providing healthier food options instead of allowing people to buy junk food such as soda and chips with government funds. SNAP should encourage purchasing nutritious foods like salads and vegetables to promote better health.

This bill is important to me because it addresses food accessibility and the ability for individuals to purchase food that meets their needs. Many people rely on SNAP to obtain the food they need to survive. However, there is a balance between providing access to necessary food and ensuring that government funds support healthy choices.

While this bill will not directly help me since I no longer receive SNAP benefits, I believe it could help others by ensuring they have better access to nutritious food. Many people face food insecurity and need better options to maintain a healthy lifestyle. On the other hand, some individuals struggle with obesity and unhealthy eating habits, which could be influenced by the types of food that are eligible for purchase under SNAP.

One concern with this bill is that it may create difficulties for people in rural areas. In Maine, traveling 50 miles to find a grocery store with healthy food is not uncommon. Unlike in Massachusetts, where 50 miles might take someone to an urban center, in Maine, it could mean traveling long distances without many options. People in rural areas should have the flexibility to buy food where they can, even if it means purchasing items in urban areas.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to share my perspective on LD 938. I am available to answer any questions by email.

Sincerely,
David Lawrence

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