



**Consumer Council System of Maine**  
A Voice for Consumers of Mental Health Services

219 Capitol Street, Suite 7  
Augusta, ME 04330

Phone: 207.430.8300  
Fax: 207.430.8301  
Toll-Free: 877.207.5073  
[www.maineccsm.org](http://www.maineccsm.org)

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Good afternoon, Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and esteemed members of the Health and Human Services Committee.

My name is Simonne Maline. I am the Executive Director for the Consumer Council System of Maine (CCSM). I am here today on behalf of the CCSM to testify **in opposition to LD 938**.

The Consumer Council System of Maine is a public instrumentality written into State Statute by the Maine Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity and to provide legislators with guidance and advice regarding the delivery of effective and appropriate adult mental health services from those served by them.

CCSM is concerned that this bill could exacerbate issues related to accessibility that SNAP recipients continuously face. Adding restrictions to where individuals can use their benefits can cause isolation and imply that they require additional oversight in their purchasing decisions. SNAP recipients rely on the program for essential food access, no matter where they may find themselves at any given time. Limiting where benefits can be used would make it significantly harder for individuals who:

- **Travel for medical care** and need access to food outside their local area.
- **Stay with family or support networks** outside their home community.
- **Live in rural areas** with already limited food access, where designated local options may not meet their needs.

While we understand the importance of stimulating Maine's economy and supporting local businesses, restrictions on food access have dangerous implications for individuals who are increasingly subject to systemic inequities. The CCSM strongly urges the Committee to consider the negative impact this bill would have on SNAP recipients, a community that already faces barriers to food security. We urge you to **vote ought not to pass on LD 938** and instead focus on expanding access and affordability rather than limiting for those who depend on this vital program.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Simonne M. Maline

Executive Director