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In 2021, the expanded tax credit cut child poverty in half, but with its reduction in following years, child poverty in Maine once again affects more than 12% of children. As an employee of Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Program who coordinates youth services programming, I see how poverty impacts so many aspects of life for children and their families. We haven't been able to provide diapers for many months, which are a huge and nonnegotiable expense for families with young children. Studies show that investing in our children now results in better focus and performance in school, better health outcomes, and a higher earning, more productive labor force in the future. Increasing the DETC will both substantially improve the lives of Maine children today and be a wise and effective investment in a better social and economic future for all of us.