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I am a parent of 2 children in the Brunswick school system. I have experienced first-hand how important School Meals for All are. Many of my children's friends would go without nutritious food if it were not for school meals. 1 in 5 Maine children experience food insecurity. When kids are hungry they can't learn. It is a basic human right to have enough to eat and Maine has successfully implemented equitable school meals for all. It would cause irreparable harm to take away school meals. School meals save families an average of \$165 a month per child and with growing costs for food this savings is critical for families... not to mention, school meals for all reduces stress and saves time for busy families when they know their kids will be fed two meals at school

Lastly, the administrative burden for school nutrition staff to have to re-implement eligibility criteria and collecting payment will be a major hassle and take time away from procuring and creating meals for kids.

CEP is important to support Maine's School Meals for All policy. This bill will ensure that all schools that are eligible to operate CEP are supported and able to maximize federal funding and reduce administrative burdens.

Thank you,
Jessie