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My name is Erin and I am a Maine resident. I have grown up my whole life in this beautiful state. I have gone through the public school system like many others, and although I was not a student on free or reduced lunches, I did have friends who were, and I saw the positive impact they had on their families and how amazing this program is. I worked in Lewiston Maine at a non profit for unhoused youth during the COVID-19 Pandemic and saw first hand the impact this program makes. I saw children so excited to go back to school to have stability, meals, and a community where they feel secure. These meals are important, that are mandatory, they are needed. Taking away funding for this is devastating, this will not only hurt Mainers, this will hurt children. Children should not be allowed to starve in school, we need to do better!