

Ellianna Boothe
Portland
LD 577

Food insecurity impacts 1 in 5 Maine Children. Having consistent nutritious meals is critical for both physical and cognitive development. By cutting school supported funding, we are harming those kids who need support the most. Food insecurity will set back their ability to focus and learn. This change will lead to health concerns in their adult lives, when fast food and cheap items will be the most affordable options to keep them fed, instead of balanced meals provided by the schools creating unhealthy lifestyle choices with serious medical risks that will be more expensive to treat down the line. If students are not set up to succeed in the classroom, there will be young adults entering the workforce less educated because they could not focus on their education, instead worrying about ongoing hunger and where they will find their next meal.

“Education is the greatest equalizer.” – Horace Mann. If we take away school funded lunch for those who need it, students cannot take full advantage of the educational opportunities they are provided, driving more disparity in the future.

Please continue supporting children’s education and lifting up the next generation.