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Today I ask that you please continue funding for School Meals for All in the State of Maine. As a person who works in Maine school system, I have seen so many children benefit from this program. Many children in Maine only eat at school. We know that 1 in 5 Maine children experience food insecurity. Hungry children can not learn or concentrate in classes, their basic human rights to food are not being met and this program provides a way to do so. Eliminating this funding will also have a ripple effect into communities where fewer cafeteria staff will be needed and local producers will lose their contracts, resulting in more potential community job loss.

My position is year round (no summer's off) yet I have to work a second job in order to make ends meet for my family. My children have also directly benefited from this program. We are very grateful for the many school meals they have received over the last 4 years. As a hard working Maine mom, I ask you to please prioritize funding this crucial program. Thank you.