

Beth VanDelinder
York
LD 577

Testimony of Beth VanDelinder, resident, Town of York, ME.
In Support of LD 577

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Beth VanDelinder, I am a resident and parent of children in the York, Maine school district.

Today, I'm submitting testimony in support of LD 577 "An Act to Maximize Federal Funding and Protect Maine's Universal School Meals Program". I'd like to thank Senator Tipping for his commitment to school meals in Maine.

York, Maine is a town that does not receive much state aid because it has been fortunate to have a strong property tax base. That property tax base is reflective of a number of seasonal homeowners and does not reflect the economic status of the residential York base; without support for school meals, children in our district will no longer be able to access nutritious meals in the way that they have been able to since COVID. Having nutritious meals offered through schools may be the main stable food source for some children in our district.

I am asking the committee to support this bill to ensure food stability for our children in Maine. Food security is something that is critical for children to thrive and be able to learn; I ask the committee members to please take action to ensure Maine's future is well cared for.

I would like to thank Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs for your time and commitment to Maine's children.

Kind regards,
Beth VanDelinder
York, ME 03909