

Isabelle Rogers, Starks Maine

In Support of LD 577 *An Act to Maximize Federal Funding and Protect Maine's Universal School Meals Program*

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Isabelle Rogers, I am a resident of Starks and a rural youth organizer with JustME for JustUS. I'm submitting testimony in support of LD 577 "An Act to Maximize Federal Funding and Protect Maine's Universal School Meals Program".

Many Maine families, especially those in rural areas, are facing extreme food insecurity. Maine food banks and supply systems are under increased stress and financial uncertainty to meet increasing needs. Every child should be able to have lunch at school, and passing LD 577 would protect Maine's school meal programs that many students rely on daily, while enriching our communities and local economy

Absolutely everyone should have the right and access to food, and the fate of Maine students' meal access at school lies in the actions of those in this room today. I urge you to vote in favor of LD 577 for a future of food access for all.

Thank you,
Isabelle Rogers