

Zoe Mason  
South China  
LD 577

Supporting school lunches and subsidized food and nutrition for youth in our communities is of utmost importance in my opinion! I am testifying today as both a farmer, a coordinator of an urban community garden in Waterville, and as the coordinator of a Gardening and Nutrition Program at the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club in Waterville. We teach food production, gardening, and cooking and feed meals and snacks to up to 200 youth per day. These programs are highly utilized and essential for many of the families we serve. Funding for these programs keeps them afloat, and that in turn supports kids to stay healthy, active and engaged in school. Take note of all the progress we've made over the years to get things running that really work. Please defend them with all your heart and power. Thank you.