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To whom it may concern,

My name is Antoinette K K former supervisor and charger nurse of Maine Veterans Home Scarborough. I am writing to give my testimony in support of the summer school programs. As a parent of six children, some of them attended summer enrichment and intervention programs for elementary and middle school to strengthen foundational skills, creativity skills, studying techniques and more to help improve, reinforce their academic knowledges and prevent of their learning loss. Some of my children who attended the enrichment programs were very motivated to go back the next day and learn new things. The summer school program for higher school does help a lot of students who are struggling academically during the school year to catch up with the required credits in order to graduate from high school. These students that attended summer school as adults now are more thankful that they were given the chance to learn and graduate otherwise they will be high schools dropouts. When we have a higher number of high schools dropouts, what kind of future can these children have? The government should care about doing all they can to assist these children, keep them off the streets, help them become somebody. Summer school programs have instilled some motivations, reinforced knowledges, learning and studying skills in the students, prevented students from losing what was learned throughout the school year and help to better their future. I have witnessed so many students in my neighborhood starting from elementary to high school how these programs were very beneficial to them otherwise without these summer programs they would have ended up those street children who are doing bad things. Please make Maine a better state where no child is left behind no matter what, their parents financial state does not mean anything if their children couldn't graduate from high school, or learn great skills and knowledge that the school can offer. Maine statewide should help any child who is struggling academically, any child who is willing to learn and reinforce skills..... one more thing I had noticed, a lot of students that are in public schools come from poor families, summer program was providing those children with breakfast and lunch which helped a lot of children not to go through out the day without eating because their family could only afford to provide a little something for dinner. Unfortunately not all of our students are coming from wealthy families. Summer food programs were allowing no hunger to those students which would be looked at as no child should go hungry no matter her/his family financial situation. Please help keep children off the streets and don't allow them to starve. Thanks, Antoinette K K.