



17 Market Square, South Paris, ME 04281

Victoria Forkus, Managing Director
Maine Community Action
Partnership
c/o Community Concepts, Inc.
17 Market Square
South Paris, ME 04281
207-441-6657

Jason Parent, Executive
Director/CEO
Aroostook County Action Program
771 Main Street
Presque Isle, ME 04769-1116
207-764-3721

James Martin, CEO
Community Concepts, Inc.
240 Bates Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
207-739-6553

Suzanne Walsh, CEO
Kennebec Valley Community Action
Program
101 Water Street
Waterville, ME 04901
207-859-1579

Claire Berkowitz, CEO
Midcoast Maine Community Action
34 Wing Farm Parkway
Bath, ME 04530
207-442-7963

Joe Everett, President and CEO
The Opportunity Alliance
50 Lydia Lane
South Portland, ME 04106
207-523-5055

Kara Hay, President and CEO
Penquis
PO Box 1162
Bangor, ME 04402
207-973-3500

Donna Kelley, President and CEO
Waldo Community Action Partners

9 Field Street
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-6809

Noelle Coyne, CEO
Western Maine Community Action,
Inc.
PO Box 200
East Wilton, ME 04234-0200
207-743-7763

Carter Friend, CEO
York County Community Action
Corporation
PO Box 72
Sanford, ME 04073
207-324-5762

January 14th, 2026

Committee on Health and Human Services
Maine Legislature

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 2051 – An Act to Ensure Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maine

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Victoria Forkus, Managing Director of the Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP), representing Maine's nine Community Action Agencies. Together, we serve over 117,000 economically disadvantaged Mainers annually, including thousands of children and older adults who rely on food assistance.

MeCAP supports **LD 2051** because it ensures lawfully present noncitizens, including those navigating immigration processes or impacted by recent federal changes, retain access to SNAP benefits. This bill is critical for three reasons:

Food Security: SNAP is the cornerstone of reducing hunger and improving health outcomes for vulnerable families.

Economic Stability: When families can meet basic needs, they avoid crisis interventions and contribute to Maine's economy. SNAP dollars circulate locally, supporting grocers, farmers, and small businesses.

Long-Term Opportunity: Reliable nutrition enables individuals to focus on education, employment, and community engagement. This builds pathways out of poverty and strengthens Maine's workforce for the future.

Access to food is not only a matter of health; it is an investment in Maine's economic vitality. By reducing food insecurity, we create conditions where individuals can thrive and fully participate in our economy.

We urge you to pass LD 2051 to keep Maine families fed, communities strong, and our economy growing. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to the people of Maine. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Victoria D. Forkus

Victoria Forkus
Managing Director
Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP)
(M) 207-441-6657