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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

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