

PARTNERING TO END HUNGER



Good Shepherd

FOOD BANK OF MAINE

January 14, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Amy Sassi and I am the Director of Government Affairs for Good Shepherd Food Bank. I am here today to testify in support of **LD 2051, An Act to Ensure Access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program in Maine.**

Every state is now grappling with the impacts of federal policy changes enacted through H.R. 1. While those decisions were made at the federal level, their consequences are felt locally, and changes to SNAP are felt acutely by the 600 food pantry partners across the state. Good Shepherd Food Bank stands ready to be a partner to the State of Maine and to the Legislature as you navigate these changes and work to mitigate harm.

You and other committees are considering legislation this session, and future legislatures will do the same, that will determine which state policies remain intact in the face of federal changes. LD 2051 makes a clear and specific policy choice: it ensures that the SNAP benefits currently available to some immigrants in Maine will continue to be available, despite changes in federal law.

You have heard about this limited eligibility in budget hearings over the past two years. This bill does **not** expand eligibility. It affirms that Maine may continue doing what it is already doing, even after the changes enacted in H.R. 1.

Immigrants are essential members of Maine's workforce, raising families, growing our farms, staffing our health care facilities, teaching our children, and fueling small business growth. Investments in their health and stability, including access to basic nutrition, are investments in the success of all Maine people and the economic resilience of our state.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

In partnership,
Amy Sassi

PO Box 1807 • 3121 Hotel Road • Auburn, ME 04211 • Tel: 207-782-3554 • Fax: 207-782-9893 •

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