



**Testimony for the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs in support of LD 2017 An  
Act to Update Certain Statutes Governing School Nutrition as amended**

**January 21, 2026**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, I'm Anna Korsen, Deputy Director with Full Plates Full Potential, a statewide non-profit working to address childhood food insecurity in Maine by maximizing access to federally funded USDA nutrition programs like school meals and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). We are a founding member of the Hunger Free Maine Coalition who advocates to advance the priorities of Maine's Roadmap to End Hunger. I also serve as the co-chair of the Ending Hunger in Maine Advisory Committee and Full Plates is a contracted SNAP Outreach organization with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

I am testifying in support of LD 2017 as amended, as this bill fixes two existing child nutrition policies in Maine to reflect currently available data and streamline program administration.

The first part of the bill proposes to amend existing language that requires the Maine Department of Education (DOE) to contract with an outside entity to provide an online application for eligibility in school meals. Our understanding is that the intent behind this change is to streamline the application process for schools and families by combining the school meal application with an existing application that families use to qualify for other benefits. We fully support this effort and intent, and this type of initiative is a key priority in Maine's Roadmap to End Hunger.<sup>1</sup>

The second part of the bill proposes to strike language that measures participation in school breakfast among children eligible for free and reduced price school meals. The data required for that measurement is no longer readily available due to the fact that many schools now participate in the Community Eligibility Provision, and are unable to track participation in school breakfast and lunch by eligibility category. Maine schools continue to have high participation rates in school breakfast among all students, and last school year over 60,000 students participated in school breakfast daily.<sup>2</sup>

Please support LD 2017. Thank you for your time- I am happy to answer any questions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/future/hunger>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/doe/schools/nutrition/claims>