

To: Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Nina Mitchell

Date: 3/5/2026

Re: Testimony in support to LD 2122 “An Act to Prevent Negative Impacts from Federal Funding Changes to and Fund Eligibility Determinations and Outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer and honorable members of the Health and Human Services Committee. My name is Nina Mitchell, I am a resident of Orono and a member of Full Plate Full Potential’s Youth Food Council. I am writing in support of LD 2122 “An Act to Prevent Negative Impacts from Federal Funding Changes to and Fund Eligibility Determinations and Outreach for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program”.

Food is a human right, yet in these current times, 101,000 Maine households are at risk of losing their SNAP benefits that they rely on. In Orono and communities like mine across rural Maine, SNAP isn't an abstract policy, it's what puts food on the table for real families. I have classmates that rely on food assistance, and these cuts could mean families in my school district will struggle even more with food insecurity. When a student is hungry, they can't focus, can't learn, and can't reach their potential, and that affects all of us.

Good nutrition is foundational to human development, yet Maine has the highest rate of child food insecurity in New England, with 1 in 5 children being at risk of hunger. When children are deprived of vital nutrients at the start of their lives, the impacts ripple across generations. As a young person, I'm asking this committee to help protect my generation's ability to grow up healthy and thrive.

Protecting SNAP funding is one of the most direct investments Maine can make in its children and its future. For all the above reasons, I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 2122.

Sincerely,

Nina Mitchell

Nina Mitchell
Orono
LD 2122