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March 5th, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 2212 – 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 the members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Victoria Forkus, and I am writing in strong support of LD 2212, a bill that takes critical steps to protect vulnerable Mainers from funding cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Community Action Agencies work directly with thousands of low-income households across Maine, many of whom rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet basic nutritional needs. This bill takes critical steps to protect those families, and the State, from the significant financial risks posed by upcoming federal changes to SNAP funding.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will soon require states to assume as much as 15% of program costs when eligibility determination error rates exceed federal thresholds, beginning in federal fiscal year 2028. If no action is taken, this shift could put strain on the state budget and jeopardize access to food assistance for vulnerable Maine households.

This bill creates a grant program to support community-based organizations working with the Department of Health and Human Services on SNAP outreach. The program would allow these organizations to draw down matching federal outreach funds and hire a dedicated SNAP outreach coordinator, strengthening communication with SNAP participants. It also establishes an error-rate reduction system designed to help the state avoid penalties tied to upcoming federal funding changes.

These provisions directly support MeCAP's mission. Community Action Agencies, trusted in every region of the state, are well-positioned to expand outreach, assist households, reduce administrative errors, and improve the accuracy of SNAP participation. These actions will ensure that families maintain consistent access to the benefits they need.

For these reasons, MeCAP fully supports LD 2122 and urges the committee pass this piece of legislation

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Victoria D. Forkus

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