



#### **Executive Committee**

President

Brian Youth, MD, FAAP

Vice President

Anne Coates, MD, FAAP

Treasurer

Jeffrey Stone, DO, FAAP

Secretary

Genevieve Whiting, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Laura Blaisdell, MD, MPH, FAAP

#### **Board of Directors**

Joseph Anderson, DO, FAAP

Rebecca Brakeley, MD, FAAP

Amy Buczkowski, MD, FAAP

Melissa Burch, MD, FAAP

Adrienne Carmack, MD, FAAP

Gabriel Civiello, MD, FAAP

Rosamund Davis, MD, FAAP

Alyssa Goodwin, MD, FAAP

Allison Grover, MD\*

Deborah Q. Hagler, MD, MPH, FAAP

Dan Hale, MD, FAAP

Anna Henderson, MD, FAAP

Jennifer Jewell, MD, MS, FAAP

Stephanie Joy, MD, FAAP

Emily Keller, MD, FAAP

Alton Kremer, MD, PhD, FAAP

Michele LaBotz, MD, FAAP

Lawrence Losey, MD, FAAP

Sophia Martens\*\*

Calvin Schaffer, MD\*

Andrea Tracy, MD, FAAP

Lara Walsh, MD, FAAP

Afnan Yahya\*\*

Margaret Zamboni, DO, FAAP

\*Resident Board Representatives

\*\*Medical Student Representatives

#### **Staff**

Dee Kerry, BS

Executive Director

Emily Belanger, RN, BSN

Education & Membership Manager

Madeleine DesFosses, BA

Advocacy & Public Health & Manager

Lizzy Garnatz, LCSW

Healthy Mental Development Manager

Tiffany Harrington, MBA

Development Director

30 Association Drive, Box 190

Manchester, ME 04351

207-622-3374

[www.maineaap.org](http://www.maineaap.org)

## **Testimony 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**

### **Committee on Health and Human Services**

**March 5, 2026**

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Esteemed Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Madeleine DesFosses, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Maine AAP is a professional organization of 300 pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists dedicated to protecting the health of Maine children and adolescents. We are in support of LD 2122, which will fund new technology to improve communication and outreach between DHHS and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants, and ensure continuity of SNAP benefits amid future federal shutdowns.

SNAP is a crucial program that thousands of Mainers rely on to put food on table for their families. In fact, approximately 43, 269 children rely on SNAP benefits, and when those benefits were frozen due to the shutdown of the federal government late last fall, many of those children experienced food insecurity and hunger.

Included in H.R. 1 was a rule which penalizes states for SNAP payment error rates above 6%, which may result in the State of Maine having to cover significant costs for honest mistakes made. LD 2122 seeks to reduce this error rate, and the costs to the state, by ensuring better communication between DHHS and SNAP participants through an electronic system. In addition, LD 2122 seeks to provide grants to community-based organizations to fund SNAP outreach activities through SNAP outreach community coordinators. Improved communication through this electronic system and outreach coordinators is key to reducing errors and ensuring that Mainers who are eligible to receive benefits get the information and assistance they need.

LD 2122 also takes an important step in ensuring that SNAP participants are able to receive the benefits they rely on, even when federal benefits are frozen due to a government shutdown. By creating a contingency fund, we can ensure that Maine families and children stay fed through state funding when the federal government fails to do so.

LD 2122 allows Maine to weather the storm that is changing federal SNAP policies and the uncertainty surrounding continuity of services. We urge you to vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 2122.

Thank you.

Madeleine DesFosses  
Advocacy & Public Health Manager  
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

