



Craig V. Hickman  
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**THE MAINE SENATE**  
132nd Legislature

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Augusta, Maine 04333

*Testimony of Senator Craig V. Hickman In Favor 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”**  
*before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services, March 5, 2026*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. I come before you today to speak 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.”

As the award-winning author Dorothy Allison wrote, “Hunger makes you restless. You dream about food — not just any food, but perfect food, the best food, magical meals, famous and awe-inspiring, the one piece of meat, the exact taste of buttery corn, tomatoes so ripe they split and sweeten the air, beans so crisp they snap between the teeth, gravy like mother’s milk singing to your bloodstream.”

Several years ago, the people of Maine enshrined in our Constitution that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to food. LD 2122 represents a crucial step in ensuring that federal policies do not interfere with Mainer’s constitutional rights.

Food is life. Everybody who wants to live needs to eat. If we are going to end hunger in Maine by 2030, we must ensure we must invest the necessary resources to avoid the crisis too many families faced last fall and winter and prevent food assistance programs from being thrown into turmoil because of federal cuts. Our constituents cannot afford to live in uncertainty about where their next meal will come from.

LD 2122 provides ongoing appropriations to a contingency fund that will provide SNAP benefits to recipients should the federal government fail to fund the most successful anti-poverty program in American history. LD 2122 also provides matching funds to ensure we can conduct effective outreach to people who may be in need, establishing a position that will support and manage SNAP activities and assist in reducing the number of SNAP payment errors to increase efficiency and reduce waste.

Let us ensure that we uphold the rights the people saw fit to enshrine in our constitution. Let us protect the most vulnerable Mainer’s in our communities. And let us come together and use the power entrusted to us by the people of this state to invest in securing the nutrition our citizens need to live and to thrive.