



Joseph E. Rafferty
Senator, District 34

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

**Testimony of Senator Joe Rafferty
In Support of LD 2064, "An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by
Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools"**

Good morning Representative Murphy, and distinguished members of the Joint Select Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Joe Rafferty and I proudly represent the people of Senate District 34 including Berwick, North Berwick, Wells, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport.

I am here today to testify in support of Senate President Daughtry's bill, LD 2064, "An Act to Expand Access to Early Childhood Nutrition by Establishing a Grant Program for Public Preschools." This bill will create an early childhood nutrition grant program which would be overseen by the Maine's Children Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education.

If eligible for the grant, public preschool providers that are not located on a public school campus but would be defined as a preschool by the State could receive up to \$1,200 per child. The \$1,200 per student would go to feeding them breakfast, lunch, and a snack that would meet federal nutrition standards.

For a state like Maine, that relies heavily on its working families, this bill helps take the weight off of parents that worry about being able to feed their child an adequate amount of food every day. Additionally, it is essential for our youngest students to be fed so that they are best prepared to absorb the information they are being taught.

LD 2064 is not just an investment in our preschools but an investment to Maine's next generation and future.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph E. Rafferty Jr.".

Joe Rafferty
Senate District 34

Berwick, North Berwick, Wells, Kennebunk and Kennebunkport